

Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI
Minutes from Parent Council Meeting
Oct 5, 2015, 7pm, School Library

Staff: Marios Tenentes, Laurier CI Principal, Ken Kosowan, Laurier Teacher-Librarian

Students: Emma, André

Parents: Angela Bernard, Ameera Rushdi, Carol Anne Riethmacher, Carolyn Chaikowsky, Cynthia Chu, Darrick Heyd, Geraldine Hently, Janice Gill, John Sew, Pat Tan-Sew, Ken Kosowan, Marie-Hélène Frion, Mary Lafazanis, Melanie Smith, Nadia Heyd, Ravi Virk, Sheeba Hashmi, Silke Miller, Tina Shaw

- 1) **Call to Order, Welcome, Motion to pass June 1st, 2015 Minutes:** Angela Bernard welcomed everyone to the meeting; Attendees introduced themselves briefly.
- 2) **Elections: Motion: Vote to elect 2015-16 council chair, co-chair and secretary.** Motion Carried. 2015-16 officers are:
Chair: Angela Bernard
Co-Chair: Pat Tan-Sew
Secretary: Darrick Heyd
- 3) **Presentation: Online access to library and learning resources:** *Ken Kosowan*, Laurier Teacher-Librarian
 1. Demonstration of electronic resources available to Laurier students, access to databases, research toolkit, encyclopaedia, advanced placement database, 10,000 publications (EBSCO Host, full text articles, citation styles), ebooks, etc.
 2. distributed TDSB Learnmark, containing passwords for online access
 3. New library catalogue: shows availability of items, rate/reviews, cover/summary, etc. All TDSB Schools have it now.
 4. can create lists of books with keywords
 5. Forest of reading flyers – reading club; meet authors at annual meeting
 6. Accessible via Smartphone – Apple and android apps available for students to download.
- 4) **Student Report (S.A.C. Student Activity Council)** *President: Emma; Vice-President: André*
 1. *Sports* this season: football, volleyball, golf, cross-country, girls' field hockey, soccer, basketball, rugby – all sports are listed on school website.
 2. **Friday Night Lights:** football game at Birchmount Stadium; Laurier lost 27-20, mascot, cheer squad and students had fun.
 3. *Clubs:* Me2We, Volunteer Now, UCC (united cultures club), SAGE (business), DECA (also business), Multicultural Club; over 60 clubs in operation at Laurier.
 4. **Terry Fox Run** was held week prior to the council meeting.
 5. **Grade 9 Day** – coming up Friday morning – Oct 9th
 6. Clubs *fair* – happening Friday Oct 9th over lunch
 7. **“We Day”** – 10 Students attended.
 8. **Character Education Camp**, Canoe Lake in Algonquin Park; on 18-20 September; 110 students plus 12 student leaders; to promote Character traits (respect, altruism, kindness, optimism, creativity...) and live them and spread them in school.
 9. **Volunteer Now** – involved in CIBC Run for the Cure and AIDS walk. 50 Students involved this year.
 10. Early morning **leadership** starts this Wed Oct 7
 11. **Spirit Days** every Friday: Character Day, Oct 16; Halloween Day, Oct 30th, with Halloween Fashion Show
 12. Planning a **dance** in November
 13. *Parent: there isn't so much info on the Laurier website. Where can students/parents go if they miss announcements or want more info?* RESPONSE (Emma): better online source is **“Stuff @ Laurier”** Facebook page; or *Twitter* and *Instagram @LaurierSAC*; also check in-school **CCTV screens** or the **announcement board** inside main office next to Guidance. Principal offered to post on the Laurier website, and add links to the *Facebook, Twitter* and *Instagram* handle.
- 5) **Principal's Report – Marios Tenentes**
 1. **Literacy success!** Goal: to achieve a 5% improvement over falling literacy rates (72% Laurier Grade 10 Lit 2014 Test vs 82-83% provincial score); Literacy group PLC [*Professional Learning Communities*] formulated a plan, including mock test days, enhanced study materials... Laurier exceeded goal: **9% increase** in OSSLT scores. Congratulations to the students, with thanks to Ms. Nikkel, the Literacy PLC Chair and her team of PLC lead teachers.
 2. **Moving on up:** Sept 2, Laurier staff and student leaders welcomed incoming grade 9 students who registered, received timetable and agenda books, participated in school tours, team building activities, and got to know each other.
 3. **Kenyan Boys' Choir.** This choir was in Toronto to perform at Free the Children's 2015 We Day events. Laurier has shown such strong support for Me2We, that the Choir honoured Laurier with a special performance on September 15th. Thanks to Ms. Kelso for her work with Me2We.

4. **All candidates meeting.** Federal candidates for this riding held a meeting at Laurier today that was attended by students in Civics and Grade 12. Students had the opportunity to hear the different candidates' platforms and ask questions.
5. Sir Wilfrid **Laurier's 2014/2015 yearbook** has been **awarded 2nd place** for *Top Printed Book in the Print Industries of America Award Design Competition*. The competition was not just for students, and yearbooks, but all types of print media created by professional design teams. We lost first place to Ferrari, for a coffee table book that had a red metal cover.
6. **Post-Secondary Info Nights.** For parents of Grade 11 and 12 students, Oct 27, 6:30PM, Room 105. Presentation about Post-Secondary pathways to be put on by Laurier Guidance.
7. **P.A.R.C. – Pupil Accommodation and Review Committee** meetings took place last spring; recommended to close Borden BTI due to low enrolment. Laurier will take in approximately 27 students next year. Funding for horticulture and landscaping program will now come to Laurier; a new greenhouse should be completed Fall 2016.
8. **Pool.** Maintenance work on the air handling systems has been completed, and after some delays in recalibrating the pool chemistry, the pool is now back in service.

Minutes of June 2015 meeting – Approved. (Forgot to pass them at the beginning of meeting)

6) Community Update

1. **Update from Friends of Guild Park and Gardens:** The Friends of Guild Park and Gardens are the recipients of 700 red and white tulips to be planted in a Dutch-Canadian Friendship Tulip Garden (70th anniversary of the first gift of tulips to Canada from the Netherlands in 1945) at Guild Park. The planting will be on Saturday October 17th at 2 pm. Students who want to get volunteer hours can join at 1 pm to help set up etc... The heritage bed these tulips will be planted in is at the back of the property, south of Greek theatre, near the Terra Cotta gates, close to the top of the Bluffs. The entire community is invited to the planting. Volunteers are asked to bring gardening gloves and trowels if possible.
2. **Update from Guildwood Village Community Association:** Angela Bernard announced our thanks to Judy Baribeau for attending Laurier School Council meetings over the years. Judy has retired. Parents can visit the GVCA website at <http://www.guildwood.on.ca/> and download the GVCA's quarterly newsletter "News and Views" for more information.

7) Other Business:

1. **Opportunity for Laurier to support a Refugee Family:** Nadia Heyd shared news of a TDSB elementary school, Dewson Street JPS, that has made a commitment to sponsor a Syrian refugee family. In under a month, Dewson has successfully raised the funds needed (about \$30,000 to support a family of 4), and has assembled a team of families from the school community who are committing the time and effort to do what is needed to help a refugee family start a new life in Canada. Dewson is challenging schools across Canada to do the same with a "1000 Schools Challenge." Nadia was inspired by the way Dewson came together to respond to the refugee crisis, and suggested that the Laurier Community (parents, students, staff) could consider sponsoring a refugee family here. Nadia and Darrick Heyd will investigate the idea further to better understand the obligations and details. They will report back to School Council next meeting. Members who are interested, can contact Nadia at nadia.heyd@gmail.com or 416-526-0413, or indicate it on the attendance sheet.
2. **Fridge magnet** with important dates is too small. Mr. Tenentes agreed and explained that he was surprised when he saw the magnet. It is flagged so that next year's magnet gets produced at the right size. Angela Bernard noted that much of the cost of the magnet was covered by the *Parents Reaching Out Grant* that was awarded to Laurier for Parent Engagement.
3. *Parent: what about fundraising at Laurier – what is done, how much is raised, what is it raised for?* Angela Bernard: Our Parent Council does not do any fundraising because student groups fundraise often. Mr. Tenentes: fundraising is allowed, but not necessary. Usually students lead the initiatives, and parents support them.
4. *Parent: asked about Parent Teacher Interviews.* Mr. Tenentes: they will be on Oct 22, and parents should be receiving notice to book their appointments online with their child's report on Oct 15th.
5. *Parent: notified council that Toronto Police 42 Division will be hosting a cybercrime workshop,* and all parents are invited to attend. Pat will forward info to Angie who will distribute via email to Council.
6. *Parent: what is "Breakfast Club."* Mr. Tenentes: it's a low cost breakfast available to all students for \$0.50 cents, from 8:10 to 8:45AM daily. The cost of the breakfast is subsidized by the *Toronto Foundation for Student Success*. Students in the "Leadership" program are the food handlers. Since Ms McClelland retired, a new teacher is running the club this year, so it has been a bit behind in getting started (it started Oct 5). There are connections to local retailers.
7. Meeting **adjourned** at 8:35pm