

Attendance: Jerry Chadwick (trustee), Marios Tenentes (principal), Angela Bernard (chair), Angela Vanderburg, Carol Anne Riethmacher, Donna Mattisin, Ferdie Umali, John Sew, Marie-Hélène Frion, Nadia Heyd, Sayad Ullah, Silke Miller, Tina Shaw

- 1) **Call to Order, Welcome, Motion to pass Feb 8th, 2016 Minutes and dates for next year:** Minutes of last meeting approved; Motion to pass proposed Laurier Parent Council dates for next year: **2016:** Oct 3rd, Nov 21st, **2017:** Feb 6th, Apr 10th, May 29th. Council passed proposed dates.
- 2) **Student Report:** *no student report*
- 3) **Principal's Report – Marios Tenentes**
 1. **Blood Donor Clinic:** April 13, 2016
 2. **Laurier Garden Consultation** with Native Learning Centre East (NCLE), two Laurier teachers, caretaker and TDSB consultant; expect gardens to link with new horticulture program; plus, NCLE awarded \$3000 from Toyota to build a Native Plant Garden (Medicine Garden); **looking for parents/ families to care for gardens during summer (sign up by week)**
 3. **Commencement:** Friday, November 4th, 2016; BrightPics photographer will return
 4. **Annual Carnival:** May 31st during extended lunch
 5. **Prom:** June 1st at Atlantis Banquet
 6. **Athletic Banquet:** June 7th, venue TBA
 7. **OSSTF Labour Action** continues; atmosphere in school is very respectful; teachers doing as per letter of Union: teaching, providing extra help where needed; admin at Laurier doing as Board instructs; report cards at end of month will have no comments or learning skills due to labour action; teachers are not participating in Board/Administration directed professional development; field trips and extra-curriculars continue; *Trustee Chadwick:* as part of the negotiating committee, he is trying very hard to get Union back to negotiating table; Union will not come back till Board removes 'release time' for Union Executives; mediator working on it, and Board wants to go to binding arbitration; high schools have not had any staff meetings or PD; there were no progress reports this semester; parent can call teacher for progress
 8. **Communications:** 2 new TV monitors hang in main halls; just waiting for electricians; expect to be running by end of year; office will post student work and daily announcements (scrolling); program called "UPDATE ALL DAY" incl sound; see www.wexfordupdateallday.com as example; our page will be www.laurierupdateallday.com; get the word out; website will be on fridge magnet in Welcome Package, among other places
 9. **Current School Website:** www.sirwilfridlaurierci.ca ; labour actions prevent teachers to update; Mr Tenentes is learning to update calendar; possibly get students from computer class/club to start updating
 10. **Recycling Program:** old electronics for fundraising; possible Community Event; TBA
 11. **Breakfast Club:** 2 parent volunteers are huge help to the teacher; many staff have stepped forward; would welcome one more parent volunteer
 12. **The Friends of Guild Park and Gardens:** 3 Shoreline clean-ups at Guild Park; main one Saturday May 14th (9 am – noon); smaller clean-up Wednesday May 25th (4 pm – 6pm) and Thursday July 7th (4 pm – 6pm); All participants under 19 require parents to sign waiver; Go to www.shorelinecleanup.ca or guildpark.ca for information on meeting place
 13. **Essential Items:** parents wanted to know if donated items were appropriate and have met the needs of the students. *Answer:* "Kids who need it are accessing it and are most grateful; donated items are kept locked and are carefully monitored; please keep donating! Best to give smaller individually wrapped items: shampoos 500 ml max; individually packaged toothbrushes; travel sized soaps and deodorants; if there is a specific item needed, they will let us know! Teachers, students thank us; a parent suggested a Walmart kit - \$5 for a variety of supplies, and the Dollar Stores have small sizes
- 4) **Other Business – Angela Bernard**
 1. **50th Anniversary sign:** there is a work-order to remove it.
 2. **Laurier Parent Facebook and Twitter:** *Parent:* suggested more communication and engagement, beyond the Laurier website parent tab: i.e. Facebook (Guidance has a Facebook page), Twitter (Principal, Student Council, Athletics are on Twitter). Social media can include info like fundraisers, and link people to Laurier's website; Motion to form a committee to

come up with guidelines and a social media plan with the goal of engaging more parents made by Nadia. Angie agreed to help; *TRUSTEE Jerry Chadwick*: Usually a staff member is the admin. *Parent*: can we put on the parent section of the website a mailing list so that any parent who signed up to that list could be sent the minutes of the meeting? *Parent*: asked Jerry to share some examples of schools with a Facebook page so that we can see how other schools do it.

5) Pool – Jerry Chadwick

City of Toronto pulled funding of Laurier, Bendale & Brown PS. Laurier's pool is presently scheduled to close Aug 2016. In 2014, the City signed a contract with TDSB and Toronto Lands Corporation (TLC) to fund 33 of TDSB's 68 pools, taking financial responsibility during the school day, after school and on weekends. The contract stated that as long as they notify TDSB by 31 Dec, they could discontinue the funding in the following year. City did notify TLC appropriately, indicating that if the new budget is passed, those 3 pools would lose funding. Glenn DeBaeremaker said that he voted for the budget but didn't realize that 3 pools would be de-funded. Paul Ainslie indicated that community usage was very low.

- 1) It costs **\$223,351 per year** to run Laurier's pool (caretaking, supplies, utilities and maintenance).
- 2) TDSB hadn't budgeted for this.
- 3) At a meeting next week, Trustees will request that TDSB fund the Laurier pool for another year
- 4) usage of this pool during the school day is very high
- 5) TLC put aside \$400K for next year **if** TDSB budget is passed on April 22nd, to keep the pool(s) open for the school day
- 6) TLC might be able to find a way to keep the pool available for community use
- 7) Jerry has received lots of emails saying that community is underserved, but no concrete solutions for keeping the pool open; lack of enrolment in Parks and Rec classes caused cancellations
- 8) Jerry's focus is keeping the pool open for school use, but not for community use
- 9) Swim meets and special events are included in "school use"
- 10) Of the 3 pools, Laurier is the most viable with the gallery & a brand new air circulation system. Brown's pool is 4 feet deep. Bendale is a school that is scheduled to close in the near future.
- 11) More maintenance is scheduled to replace Laurier's sound absorbing tiles
- 12) *Questions, Comments and Concerns*: City funds only 33 out of 68 TDSB pools. Are other schools that don't have city funding in the same predicament to be shut down? Seems City is pushing for more community usage at Pan Am Centre (TPASC) rather than Laurier. TPASC's mandate is to rent their pool every hour that it is open. How do we convince TDSB our pool is used **all school day by our school community** and ought to be funded? Parents can't raise the budget needed (nor should they!), but please let us know how we can help. We want to **ensure TDSB doesn't close Laurier's pool** when they fund 35 other school pools. How do we get funded like that? What is the criteria to keep the pool open? Demographics changing from 49% single person dwelling to younger families. Has school held a community meeting about pool? *Jerry*: Since 2012, trying to increase community use (there was talk then about closing the pool) with signage and a campaign to boost usage, but still not enough response outside of school use. No community meeting yet. Need to have enough schools (and pools) to deal with changing demographics. We have to go to TLC to get the unfunded pools funded. TLC sometimes finds other parties to lease the pool outside of school hours.

Meeting **adjourned** at 8:18pm. Next meeting May 30th, 2016.