

**Attendance:** Marios Tenentes (principal), Angela Bernard (chair), Pat Tan-Sew (vice-chair), Carol Anne Riethmacher, John Sew, Marie-Hélène Frion, Melanie Smith, Sayad Ullah, Silke Miller, Tina Shaw, Tracy Petrou

1) **Call to Order, Welcome, Motion to pass Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Minutes:** 7:04 PM Start; Neither secretary is present, so Tracy accepted to write the Minutes during the meeting and Angie will rewrite them for print; Motion to pass previous minutes with amendment to remove Carol Ann Riethmacher's name from the attendance list. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

2) **Breakfast Club:** *Mr. Tenentes and Angela Bernard will present on Ms. Vieth's behalf.*

1. It's Ms. Vieth's first year running the Breakfast Club programme
2. students from the Leadership class help run it
3. aim is to offer Breakfast every morning before the start of school at a *nominal fee*
4. this year staffing it is challenging
5. Mon-Thurs: yogurt, granola, fruits... while Fridays, caf will cook a hot meal
6. asking for a couple of parent volunteers. Duties: open the Breakfast program at 8 AM (8:15 the latest), oversee student(s), help with cash and food, lock up, return key
7. Mr. Tenentes will accept Police Checks from other places (Churches...) that are still valid; he might foot the bill for a new one, depending on the # of days volunteering. Vulnerable screening required.
8. *Parent:* suggest ROBOcalls to solicit volunteers? Or sign up on website? *Mr. Tenentes:* Preferred sharing via Parent Council email, and word of mouth to other parents because there have been complaints about the ROBOcalls
9. (*Parent re those calls;* what to do about incorrect absent messages? *Mr. Tenentes:* Student should let the teacher know (s)he was marked absent on a day when (s)he was present. Once the teacher confirms, (s)he will notify school to change it.)

3) **Essential Items Initiative:** *Angela Bernard*

**Usable items:** toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorants, mini shampoo, sanitary products (pads)... Some students are finding it challenging to make ends meet. Items can be dropped off at Guidance, in an opaque bag marked with ESSENTIAL ITEMS Initiative. Entire list to be sent via email. *Parent:* suggested collecting Optimum Points... by getting an Optimum Card for the Initiative. People can donate some of their pts if they want to. Angie and Nadia will look into this possibility.

4) **Student Report:** *Mr Tenentes will present on student's behalf*

1. **Athletic winter season** under way
2. **Semi Formal:** biggest one! 350 students; Positive event; Chandni Banquet Hall
3. **School dance** on Thursday before the break
4. **DECA** (Business, Marketing, Entrepreneurship...) **Provincials:** Laurier represented well at Toronto Sheraton downtown, Feb 7 & 8. Impressive: students in Business attire; future leaders!
5. Mr Tenentes' **Twitter account:** #Sir\_Laurier (tweet him!)
6. **Quebec Ski Trip** during 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Feb; opportunity to be immersed in the culture; generated by the French Dept
7. **Talent show** coming
8. **Youth Animal Advocacy:** new club in school

5) **Principal's Report** – *Marios Tenentes*

1. Parents as Partners **Conference:** April 16, 2016; for parents with children in TDSB
2. Trustee Jerry Chadwick invites all to see author **David Bouchard**. Grade 11 and 12 Laurier students will see him in our Auditorium.
3. **Global Citizens Unite:** and International Certificate focussing on a Global Perspective; TDSB asked 4 schools to pilot it; Laurier has not started it due to strike actions

4. **Safe and Caring Schools** update: 2 expulsions this year vs 5 last year
5. TDSB gives Parent Councils a budget; *Angie*: we receive \$1000 / year; before Sept 2012, council passed a motion to yearly spend that budget on 'Graduation Portfolios' (for diploma and grade 12 composite photo); Laurier Parent Council was acknowledged and thanked for the gift during Commencement in November
6. **Commencement** was 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in Nov; had larger turn out; no survey to address the preferred date (early or late Nov, or June) was created or completed due to work to rule; parents can volunteer to help
7. New **Garden Club** received a TD Evergreen Grant (Ms Ravenhurst); Aboriginal and Native Centre awarded \$3000 to plant native plants (Jenny Town)
8. **Prom** date changed to June 1st at Atlantis Banquet Hall

6) **Other Business** – *Angela Bernard*

1. **Traffic**: officers discussed our concerns, gave suggestions (change signs, indicators on pavement...); requests have been submitted to TDSB Facilities
2. *Parent*: is attendance optional for morning tutorials before the 1st exam? Then why receive a Robocall saying they were absent? Tutorials are geared for questions before exams, and are optional; there is NO lesson; with parental permission, they can stay home to study; teachers MUST legally take attendance, and the Robocall will happen
3. **'Complete, Not Repeat' room**: teachers staff it during exams; students who might earn their credit if they complete their work are identified and given the opportunity to complete the missing work in the room
4. **My Blueprint** is due at the end of February

Meeting **adjourned** at 8:36pm. Next meeting April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016.