



# Upper Lynn PAC

## Upper Lynn Parent Advisory Council General Meeting – SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 Meeting called to order @7:05pm

**PAC Executive in Attendance:** Tanya Mealing, Julie McNeil, Beth McCaffrey, Stephanie Woodward, Alex Best, Lisa Storoz, Cindy Reid, Jamie Bassett, Larry Donohoe

- **School Administration in Attendance:** Todd Henderson, Leslie McGuire
- **Call to Order – Tanya Mealing 7:05pm**
- **Welcome and PAC introductions (all)**
- **Review and Adoption of Agenda:** Jamie Bassett, Larry Donohoe all in favour
- **Approve the minutes of last meeting:** n/a

### Message from School Administration – Todd Henderson & Leslie McGuire:

- Upper Lynn Mission Statement – reviewed with staff at beginning of ea yr and throughout
  - Next meeting will include election of School Planning Council
- **School goals 2010-2011**
  - Improve reading proficiency of all students
  - Increase intermediate student sense of safety
- Student enrolment: 491 (gain of 26 from last yr)
- Class size limits: 22 for Kindergarten, 24 for primary, 30 for grades 4-7
- Grounds improvements highlighted: better drainage and addition of grassy area on east side of front playground
- Traffic Safety Patrol: significant change to program – BCAA backed out of training program unexpectedly, now left up to school to train. Incentive program gone too. District reviewing liability issues. ULE relies on parent volunteers. Currently, parents/guardians are responsible for getting their kids to school safely. Tanya, Julie & Todd to meet with traffic safety board re: review of traffic in the area. Full report provided at a later date.

- School supplies: significant issue at all the schools in the district. Huge frustration. Todd paid personal visit to Teaching Things last week. Working on a resolution. Might be a school list and “happy shopping” for students for next year.
- Leslie McGuire
  - Thank you for volunteering
  - Netbook purchased by the PAC, software called Kurzweil. Fills in the cracks and helps kids achieve their optimum potential. Words and sentencings verbalized. Verbalizations can be set at different reading rates. Highlight words for definition. Word prediction function: child starts typing a word and the program will provide a list of ten words to choose from. Helps with spelling, reading, comprehension, etc..

**Library Update – Charlene Wilson: “The Dancing Librarian”**

- Believes in reading for the joy of reading
- Talks about different virtues, can lead to further discussion in classroom
- Parent library: not being utilized. Parents can borrow any books from the library ☺
- Library open for lunch M, T, Th. Children can check out books during lunch and after school as well as during their library time.

**Drive-In report – Larry Donohoe:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> year and growing – 75 cars
- Call out for feedback re: day of the week, concession, movie
- Everyone “had a blast”, talk of the District

**Directory Update – Alex Best, Lisa Storoz, Stephanie Woodward**

- Working on ads, tying up loose ends. On track for mid October publication

**Family photos update -:**

- First fundraiser of the year. 117 families participated. Increase of approximately 20 families from last year. \$1770

### **Fruit & Veggie Program - Daphne:**

- Newsletter communication re: schedule of deliveries
- Provided at no cost to the school
- Kid-approved
- Additional to snacks and lunch
- Encourage primary students to participate in delivery/pick up of trays
- Proof that one parent can make a difference!
- Requested a list of parents who have food safe certification.
- Lydia will include a request for volunteers on her Hot Dog Day announcement

### **Treasurers Report – Ian Arbuckle:**

- Distribution of financial statement
- Transitioning Beth into role.
- Reviewed highlights of revenue/expenses for the school

### **Budget Amendments – Beth McCaffrey:**

- Long Jump Pit: allow for extra \$500 to cover the cost. Larry Donohoe motion to vote, Lydia Thomas seconded. No one opposed. All in favour. Passed.

### **Survey results & implementation plan – Julie McNeil:**

Last June the ULEPAC put out a survey to solicit input from parents with regards to our hot lunch program and fundraising activities. A summary of results follows:

#### **Hot lunch program**

- 88% responded yes to wanting an expanded lunch program.
- By *majority* vote, hot dog day is still the #1 choice for lunch.
- Pizza came in 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by booster juice & magic lunch box. Sushi received very few votes
- Some common themes emerged in the lunch section comments such as reducing waste, composting & nut allergies. We are aware of the concerns & they will be taken into account as we move forward through the implementation stage

**Plan:** maintain hotdog day as it currently exists twice/month & then bring in different lunch options on the other 2 weeks. So there would be a lunch option every week (hotdog day, pizza, hotdog day, booster juice). You will be able to pick & choose which ones you participate in.

Expanding the lunch program will take time, so by proceeding this way, you will still have a hot lunch program while we get the structure & volunteers in place for the additional lunch options.

### **Silent Auction**

Every year we run a very successful fundraiser through a silent auction. Last year the auction brought in over \$5000. The question we raised on the survey was whether to have the auction at carnival or at the parent social or both. The highest vote came in to do it at both.

**Plan:** the primary classes will organize baskets at carnival & the intermediates will organize baskets at the social.

### **Other Fundraising initiatives**

All of the current fundraisers + several new ideas that had been brought forward were put on a list & we asked people for their vote. There were 20 options on the list.

- The most popular fundraisers:
  - Big Brothers 85%,
  - family photos 80%,
  - used toy/book sale 75%,
  - spring flowers 62%,
  - voluntary donations 61%,
  - spirit wear 57%
  - the card project 56%.
  - The rest were well below the 50% mark.

### **Plan:**

- Big Brothers is in the works. We are hoping to run it twice this year
- Family photos will be finished this weekend.
- The used toy/book sale & spring flowers received enough support that it makes sense to run with them (volunteer dependant)
- The card project is in the works

### **Note:**

\* **Entertainment books:** It was crystal clear from the results that parents overall were done with the ET books (& Innisbrooke). Unfortunately, we didn't realize that the contract for ET is signed a year in advance & that our school had already committed. We were caught in an ethical predicament b/c we had asked the parents what they wanted, they said they didn't want it anymore & then we had to run with the program anyway.

A big thank you to Corey Zylstra aka the 'Entertainment fairy'. She went to incredible lengths to battle the details of the contract & to negotiate an agreement whereby we only had to send the paperwork home, not the books. Through it all she remained patient with us, professional & respectful of the parents' wishes. Thank you.

### Upcoming events & fundraisers – Tanya Mealing & Julie McNeil

- Big Brothers-Julie
- Halloween dance, Friday, Oct. 29th – Tanya
  - 500-600 in attendance- parents, kids of all ages. Clarification: not a kid drop off event. Parents/guardians responsible for their own children.
  - DJ, Bingo in the Library, Gr. 7 Haunted House getting a little gory & scary. Possibly steering to something else...
  - Request for volunteers – decorating, ideas for Gr. 7 Halloween project
  - Tricia spoke up explaining that she has organized dances in the past.
- Card project – Tanya
  - Introduced at AGM in May. Kids art made into greeting cards. Julie & Tanya to meet with teachers to get this up and running.
  - Full report @ next PAC meeting.

### New Business:

- **Cindy Reid:** A Fromme parent asked if there was any chance of getting swings on the playground. Due to the # of primary students, additional playground equipment wanted in the egg. Reason for no swings is due to safety issues, ie, the proximity of cement, space issues. Also, cost is expensive. Suggestion made that interested parents could form a committee to look at options.
- **Kindie Mom** – Raised some concerns with regards to how kindergarten kids have been integrated. Put forth idea of play first, eat second. Kindergarten separation. Todd explained one of the issues is staffing and managing the appropriate amount of supervision. This issue is out of the PAC's hands. We can provide feedback and facilitate a line of communication.
- **Daphne:** Kindies need to know where they can go for help, concerns re: integration. Line of communication open for Kindie parents to express their concerns.

**Meeting adjourned @ 8:50pm**