

École Intermédiaire Lawrence Grassi Middle School Council
Wednesday, September 11, 2013 – 7:00 PM
Meeting/Staff Room LGMS
Minutes



LEARNING COMPONENT: NA

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Call to Order & Welcome Any New LGMS Council Members & Guests

Meeting to order at 7:14 pm

In attendance: Shari Worobey, Alison Andrews, Alanna Mcleod, Leanne McKeown, Thea Mitchell, Michele Kiist, Scott Rowed, Liz Baker, Adrienne Lawlor, Brian Wityshyn, Betty Mah

2. Adoption (Amendment) of Agenda

a) Council Vacancies: Leanne listed some of the vacancies on council that have opened up due to past members who have moved on. Any new recruits are welcome to join this exciting parent committee! Communication coordinator has not yet been filled.

Motion: Leanne made the motion “To expand the number of Member at Large positions to accommodate some of the newer members who have shown interest.” Liz Baker seconded the Motion. All were in favour. Motion approved. Some people who may be interested include Scott Rowed and Michele Kiist.

b) Physio balls: Adrienne wanted an update on the physio balls added to the agenda.

3. Confirmation/Approval of Past Minutes – These were sent out but due to flooding and summer holidays not many responded. Shari will resend the June minutes out for approval.

4. Reports

➤ **Principal’s Report:**

1. Enrolment -The Grade 4’s have transitioned well into the school. Brian said that they are a nice addition to the energy of LGMS. Last year, enrolment was projected at 422 but since the beginning of September, it is up to 446! Enrolment has increased throughout the whole Canadian Rockies school division. Some examples provided were the grade 5 class that increased to 30 students, and the grade 5/6 class which had 27 kids. Another teacher was granted to LGMS to accommodate this increase. The 5/6 split will be changed into a grade 5 only class so lower grades will be consistent with around 20 students in all classes. All grade 8 classes and some French Immersion classes are 30 or above so this needs to be looked at as

well. There are supports in place and Brian is still looking into this. Perhaps another teacher would help to “co-teach” the higher classes. An ad for the grade 5 position has closed already, Brian is interviewing and the new teacher will begin immediately. Also, LGMS will hire a 0.6 time assistant principal. Interviews for this position will begin next week. The school itself was designed for about 520 kids.

2. Library closure: Last year this position was cut to 0.5 across the board. Discussion with the Board is continuing. Across the board, libraries in all schools are open in the morning. April resigned over the summer so this position has been posted. Kids are still getting their books and Brian will hire for this soon. More details to follow. The space at LGMS will be still used as a learning center; it just has to be managed.
3. Chrome books: We used to have laptops which now need to be ever-greened. It’s time to move into new technology. Google Chrome books are about 266\$ with tax and 60 were ordered. With the help of parent council...perhaps grant writing for technology and pizza money (as a suggestion) the payment of these items may be complete over two years. \$4000 was allocated from council for the purchase of these. Old laptops will be used for grade 8’s who can’t afford a laptop. Each classroom will also receive a few for use when needed.
4. Other items:

Allocated funds from Rotary Grant \$3500 was received...\$2000 was spent on the sound system, not the screen. The extra bill will be submitted for this by Brian.

Magazine fundraiser assembly held today.

International Men’s Day: Discussion occurred with council regarding hosting this at LGMS on Nov. 19th. Speakers would present to the school and would talk about issues such as gender equality. No conclusion was made but concerns regarding age-appropriateness and subject matter were presented. Brian will check further into the mandate of this program. Tabled to next meeting.

➤ **Treasurer’s Report :**

- Alison emailed the report out to most of us (see attached). We need to wait until we got our pizza funds in before more detail is available as the bulk of our funds come from pizza. \$7000 is estimated as income due to additional students and twice per month orders. A summary of monies spent is listed below:

Money incoming from school fees is about 3\$ per student.

Money spent on: \$75 staff appreciation

\$500 effective behavior support pencils

\$1500 stream of dreams (gr. 4, 5 and 6)

(Minimal amount) Iron Chef

\$500 Year end barbeque

\$600 staff appreciation in June

In reserve: Rotary funds (now spent)

\$300 gym equipment for classes to have for DPA

\$500 chair physio balls

\$4000 for Chrome books
\$116 for new cheques
\$6500 surplus at present.

Alison reminded the group that the function of council is not to fundraise.

5.Welcome Back Staff Breakfast

-To cut back on coffee, a suggestion was made to make it at the school. Others suggested to splurge...Betty will bring coffee from the Rimrock (organic, frog-friendly). Breakfast will take place on Wed. Sept. 18th. Leanne will email everyone with specifics.

6.Roving Council Members for Student-Teacher-Parent Conferences

-Parent council members will be present at student-teacher-parent conferences on Oct. 24/25. Suggestions to have a table and drop box for questions/answers was made. Also, it was suggested to use this as a forum to ask and educate parents about casino fundraising option which could be 2-3 years away in the future if passed. Discussion of use of casino will be tabled for future meetings.

7. Other items:

-Chair balls: Council supported the purchase of chair balls and they were purchased by Adrienne at Medicomforts in Canmore. Adrienne noted that these don't work out for all kids so she looked into air cushions/ disc sits as other options. Experimentation will take place as to which kids and classes would benefit from using these. Ten were purchased for a total of \$747.20...\$500 was initially allotted by council. Adrienne requested the additional funding of \$247.20 extra, which will allow one in each classroom. Valentina, the owner of Medicomforts gave us 20% off as well.

Motion: Adrienne made the motion for council" to pay an additional \$247.20 from the \$500 already granted for the purchase of 10 chair balls." Michele seconded this and all in favour. Motion passed.

* It was recommended that something be written up in the school newsletter so that families who want this as well may purchase them.

-Extracurricular activities: Michele wanted to discuss extracurricular activities and she had an idea for film/photography option. Brian is looking at getting volunteers for this. Further discussion is to be tabled to next meeting.

8.Council Initiatives

-Brian will follow up grant writing opportunities i.e. Banff Community Foundation, equipment purchase for Learning Support, Technology grant. BCF deadline is Sept. 30. Sharon Blythe (member at Large) may be interested in writing grants.

9.Items outstanding & Action Items from minutes

- Farmbox Garden (Bonnie Hamilton) tabled until next meeting.

-Bridging schools is already being done i.e. grade 8 kids have met with grade 9 teachers etc. to ensure a smooth transition.

10.Learning Component – October: Part 2 of *Managing Screen Time*,

- Peter Churchill was the speaker last year. In Oct. Adrienne wanted a discussion amongst parents for strategies that have worked or not regarding managing screen time. Spencer Schneider (manager of Addictions) would facilitate this next presentation and include some stats/ concerns etc. Adrienne will get the required info out to the community that the Learning Component will occur from 6:30-7:30 p.m. followed by our Council meeting 7:30-900 p.m..

-Possible future speaker: Peter Bayliss in November for the next Learning Component. Teenage Brain and Behaviour.

11.‘Intention Flag’ Activity

-Adrienne introduced an interesting and fun activity for council to complete: We created “intention flags” which were along the lines of the Tibetan flags which are used to promote peace, compassion, strength and wisdom. They are blown by the wind to carry the messages to all beings. Each colour of fabric on the flag represents a different thing i.e. blue=sky and peace, green=water red=fire etc. Council created a flag with their own dream, intention, ideas etc. and this was erected in the LGMS staff room.

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- **Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM**
 - **Date and time of next meeting: October 9, 2013 at 7:30 PM after Learning component 6:30-7:30 p.m.**