



# Lanor Junior Middle School School Council

## Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2023

**Place:** Lanor Library (450 Lanor Avenue, Etobicoke, ON) and Zoom\*

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

### Attendees:

<b>Voting members present:</b>	Andrea Makowiecka	<b>Admin:</b>	Bill Mah
	Gladys Jekecha	<b>Staff:</b>	Amreen Alam
	Karmen Pestotnik*		Sebastian Hergott
	Mikela Evans Pilipovic	<b>Guests:</b>	Allen Attard*
	Natasha Ministry*		Amy Butoiske
	Patricia Ocampo - Secretary		Dave Marino*
	Sarah Marriott - <i>Chair</i>		Eric & Nikki Martin*
	Sonia Mistry*		Halyna Kurylchenko*
	Stacy Laliberte		Ian Wineberg*
	Tonya Belle*		Joanna Kuczkowski
<b>Voting members regrets:</b>	Rebekah Warner		Kiran Dharani
	Steve F		Nikki Martin*
	Terri-Lyn F		Nyla Selvadurai*
			Patel*
			Rose Butler*
			Rebecca Abu-Ali*
			Tanding Tsomo*

### 1. Introduction, Welcome, Land Acknowledgement

Sarah Marriott welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the land acknowledgement. We introduced ourselves.

### 2. Nomination & Election of Voting Members & Exec

Since the last meeting, more members have put their names forth as voting members, including Gladys Jekecha, Rebekah Warner, Sonia Mistry (Caring & Safe Schools Rep), and Terri-Lyn F (Treasurer), who are all acclaimed as such.

### 3. Chair Report

#### *Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2023 Meeting*

- **ON A MOTION duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the minutes of the SAC meeting held on September 21, 2023 be approved.**

#### *Bylaws*

- TDSB's Parent and Community Engagement Office (PCEO) mandated that School Councils must submit bylaws to their office. Sarah will submit the bylaws, as outlined in the draft distributed using the PCEO online form. Once a clean version is received, it will be distributed for review and approval.
- The bylaw template requires we set a maximum number of voting members. Sarah noted ours is currently listed at 7 and wanted the School Council (SC) to discuss. In Principal Bill Mah's previous schools, voting member maximums were in the teens. He recommended it be an odd number to help break ties. Quorum is determined by the number of voting members you actually have, not by the maximum possible. We currently have 13 voting members, so we need 7 for quorum. Sarah noted that voting members should regularly attend meetings. Online voting is acceptable. Several people suggested allowing for more people could lead to better parent/caregiver engagement. Andrea Makowiecka suggested 25.
- **ON A MOTION duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the voting member limit of 25 for the Lanor School Council be approved.**
- **NEXT STEPS:**
  - ▶ **Sarah will submit the bylaws to the PCEO to generate a final draft for the SC to review.**

#### *School Statement of Needs*

- Sarah and Patricia Ocampo reviewed the previous year's SSON alongside other schools' SSON. A lot of revisions needed to be made because the previous year's SSON was very STEM-focused, and Lanor is no longer a STEM school.
- Bill noted that teacher training and equipment, which requires funding, is needed if we were to become a STEM school again. Sarah asked if this was something the SC could support. Bill agreed that we could partner, though staff should lead the initiative. Amreen noted that we lost two key staffers who ran the Robotics Club. Lanor had made it to provincials twice.
- **NEXT STEPS:**
  - ▶ **Sarah will share a survey with the SC to determine the priority order for 5-6 overarching priorities, and then Sarah and Patricia will fill in the specific wants and needs and submit to the school board.**
  - ▶ **Sarah and Bill to start a discussion about ways SC could support Lanor STEM initiatives.**

#### *School Council Innovation Grant*

- The SCIG is a grant for \$1500 we can apply for to use within one of the areas that they list. The SC survey that Sarah sent out asked which area we should focus on. The SC voted as follows:

- 10 votes for creating safe spaces of belonging (tackling bullying and violence)
- 5 votes for mental health and well-being
- 2 votes for equity/anti-oppression
- 1 vote for engaging parents/caregivers in early literacy and numeracy
- Sarah invited the SC to email her with ideas for how we could use the grant to create safe spaces of belonging (tackling bullying and violence.) Amy Butoiske suggested RhythmWorks for percussion-based presentations. Amy also noted that at James S Bell, the SC invited the student body to contribute to a school cookbook, and the focus was on welcoming and inclusivity. Bill has had other parent councils bring in Paul Davis, internet safety guru (who came to Lanor two years ago).
- **NEXT STEPS:**
  - ▶ **Email Sarah with any ideas for how we could use the grant.**
  - ▶ **Email Sarah if you can help work on the SCIG application, which is due by October 31.**

#### *Parent Survey*

- We want a broad parent/caregiver voice to ensure we are truly representing the community. Sarah has drafted a survey, using an amalgamation of other parent/caregiver surveys. The purpose is to send to the whole school community and gather feedback from families beyond the SC to find out what support parents want, what priorities to focus on, and how school council can further support the school community.
- It's important to find out barriers to parent/caregiver involvement and to be more inclusive regarding families' needs and priorities.
- **NEXT STEPS:**
  - ▶ **Rose Butler will work on the parent/caregiver survey along with Tonya.**

#### *Council Priorities*

- A survey was sent to School Council members and meeting attendees. The results can be found attached to these minutes; a summary is outlined below.
- The SC survey asked which priorities the SC should focus on. Top priorities were family engagement, school facilities, school safety, and student success.
- The SC's ideas to engage families included a games night, outdoor BBQ in the spring, guest speakers, fun fair, interactive STEM night, family dance, events that are accessible for many and not very expensive, culture show or fashion show, holiday bazaar, and swap shop.
- The SC voted on meeting format. Preference was for alternating between in-person and virtual followed by hybrid.
- The SC voted on meeting times. Preference was for 7 p.m.
- The SC voted on meeting days. Preference was for Tuesdays followed by Wednesdays.
- A survey comment noted that mixing up days was preferable so that parents/caregivers who can't make a certain night can come to the next meeting.

- In answer to the SC survey question asking for newsletter ideas, someone suggested the newsletter highlight the role of the SC and the different roles people are doing. It was suggested the newsletter be shorter and include photos. Sarah asked for photos from Curriculum Night and for volunteers to take photos at pizza lunch. Bill reminded the SC that we need to have permission from parents/caregivers to include photos of their children.

#### *Ward Forum*

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan Ward forum is scheduled for tomorrow, October 17.

#### *TDSB Parents and Caregivers Conference*

- This conference, titled “Joy in the Journey of Learning,” is scheduled for October 21 and 22.

## 4. Treasurer’s Report

- Balance is just over \$12,000.
- For Curriculum Night we overpurchased but still netted \$215. Stacey confirmed the overpurchasing was intentional so that we can use any leftovers for future events.
- Bill informed the SC of potential school asks:
  - Chromebooks: Five staffers did an inventory of Lanor’s Chromebooks. Grades 6 and 7 now each have their own device. Grade 5 devices will come next month. Grade 4s and 8s are using shared Chromebooks. K-3 don’t use tech so much; they use iPads. There are 15 or 17 machines that are not operational. There’s a ticket to get it fixed, but it’s been 3 weeks. The school might ask the SC for help to replace those machines.
  - Library furniture: Ms. DeVerteuil, librarian, is looking for more welcoming, comfortable (not so institutional) furniture in the library.
- School has put in a request for a \$104 bus expense for a K-3 field trip to the Carnival of Munsch on December 5. Amreen shared that we’ve asked for \$15 per student, but the bus prices were hiked this year. The school will cover a lot of the expense, but the \$104 is the balance needed so parents/caregivers don’t have to pay more than \$15.
- **ON A MOTION duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, it was resolved to cover the \$104 for the K-3 field trip’s bus expense to the Carnival of Munsch.**

## 5. Principal’s Report

### *Upcoming Events*

- Thanks to Ms. Brar and primary team for entering Lanor in a contest to win a CHF1 and Owlkids for a Love of Reading assembly to talk about reading and how a radio station works. We were 1 in 5 schools in Toronto to win.

- Cross country team competed on October 17, with 22 kids competing in the Toronto West conference finals. Good luck to them.
- The Grade 5/6 soccer boys team came in second in their division, so moving on to the next event. Date TBD.
- Those students who have an IEP will be bringing them home for parents' review on October 17.
- School photo day is October 30.

### *School Committee*

- There are committees at Lanor working to try and improve the school, as follows:
  - Technology (staff only)
  - Caring and Safe Schools (staff and parents/caregivers) (As our rep, Sonia Mistry will represent us at this committee. Sarah proposed we also have an SC Caring and Safe Schools subcommittee to share recommendations via our rep to the school's committee.)
  - School Improvement Planning (staff and parents/caregivers)
  - Staffing (staff only) (Bill clarified that the committee does not hire, but they analyze the staffing ratios to ensure an equitable distribution of prep time and teaching assignment and subject weight, and then they advise the principal.)
- Bill was asked to provide more context for the School Improvement Plan. The TDSB is divided into four Learning Centres, which are huge, and within those are Learning Networks, which are smaller groups of schools. We're in Learning Centre 4 and Learning Network 19. Our Learning Network has a worksheet for the school to guide creation of the School Improvement Plan. We need to fill it out to address the subheadings given by the superintendent, which are as follows:
  - Considerations for change and improvement
  - Joy, engagement, and belonging for student achievement and success
  - Early reading enjoyment and fluency
  - STEM for grades 4-8
  - Learning recovery
  - Truth and reconciliation
  - Combatting hate and racism
  - Supporting the revised curriculum

### *School Yard Safety*

- Bill noticed students on scooters and dog walkers on school property. But a parent emailed last week to report a dog on school property. Bill shared that today, then will email parents in the Principal's Newsletter. He reminded students in the morning announcements to dismount scooters once on school property. He plans to continue to get that message out schoolwide and then start addressing individuals directly.
- The walkway by the east parking lot (facing Alderbrae Ave) is closed due to the broken gate along Lanor Ave. A decision was made prior to this year to keep that walkway closed to contain students who are a flight

risk and maintain efficient supervision from staff. That area isn't cleared in the winter anyway (as determined by the TDSB). Some suggestions to help with the issue:

- Redesign that area for better thoroughfares
- Get rid of the parking lot
- Include signs at the parking lot so it's staff only (that parent volunteers can take out and bring in)

• **NEXT STEPS:**

- ▶ **Bill to continue to get the message out that we need to use the playscape walkway.**
- ▶ **Sarah will include a diagram explaining all of this in the newsletter.**

*Extracurriculars*

• Upcoming:

- Student council, which is an initiative by a Grade 8 student who will speak to staff to get it going.
- Students presenting at the Remembrance Day assembly.
- There will be a Grade 7/8 boys' volleyball team.
- There will be a winter concert on December 13.

• Current:

- Eco team that does recycling every week.
- Grades 4-8 cross country.
- Grade 5/6 and 7/8 boys' soccer.
- Grade 7/8 morning announcers and office helpers.
- Ms. Saskin has drop-in music after school until 3:30 (bring your instrument and she'll help you).

• Natasha Mistry asked if there will be string music lessons offered at Lanor. Bill confirmed it's only taught in band, which is for Grades 7/8 only. For K-6, the focus is on vocal and recorders.

• Nyla Selvadurai asked why students aren't asked to change into proper attire for gym class. Bill suggested she contact Mr. Heim directly or he could put Nyla in touch with Mr. Heim to discuss.

• Andrea asked if there will be sports teams for girls. Bill said two things are needed to make that happen that didn't happen this year: 1) staff coaches and 2) a critical mass of participants to make a team. We didn't have these in place by the time the school needed to submit which teams they intend to run (which is September 13 for fall sports and October 25 for winter sports). The SC suggested ways to ensure girls have sports options this year and the next, as follows:

- Open up age ranges to get the numbers for the team (e.g., Grade 6-8 girls' soccer).
- Recruit parent/caregiver coaches, which means we need to advertise well in advance that interested parents/caregivers will need to take a TDESSA course. We would still need a staff "coach" for every team.

-If there is no critical mass for a sport, Lanor should still offer a house league that aims to teach the sport to multiple grades (e.g., Grade 4/5 girls' soccer house league) in order to build up interest and skills for a future team.

-Communicate tryout dates to parents/caregivers (not just students) multiple times and well in advance so families can encourage their kids (e.g., newsletter, SC Facebook page)

-Patricia suggested the SC have a Sports Committee

- **NEXT STEPS:**

- ▶ **Sarah to share link for Lanor parents/caregivers to join committees.**

### *Budget*

- School budget is in the meeting documents folder, and is attached to these minutes. The preliminary school budget is \$61,916. Some are allotted to specific parts of school (e.g., the SC gets \$468, library gets \$5,330). The bulk goes to classrooms (e.g., classrooms, French, music, gym) for consumables (e.g., stationery), subjects (e.g., math program). Any asks will be reviewed by the principal along with two positions of responsibilities.

- Amreen noted that we need to fund the Morning Munch coordinator's honorarium. The TDSB covers the food, but we need to help the coordinator to keep the commitment. Rose suggested that we include how much the Morning Munch costs to run in total and per student, so parents/caregivers have an idea of what is reasonable to donate and of the general value of the program.

- **NEXT STEPS:**

- ▶ **Sarah to investigate ways to raise funds for the coordinator honorarium.**

## **6. Fundraising & Events**

### *Spirit Wear*

- Tonya Belle reported that after investigating options, she's decided to go with Kahunaverse, which will offer two price tiers for purchasing clothing. The purchases can be made online and will be shipped to the school. The cost is the retail, so we could raise the price an extra \$1-2 beyond retail (lowest price is \$14) to raise funds for the SC.

- **NEXT STEPS:**

- ▶ **Tonya to send the beta website to the SC to review.**

### *Halloween Dance*

- Stacey Laliberte reported that the Halloween Dance will be on October 27. Bill will put in the permit. There was concern about numbers and about security, especially given that students have hung out in the dark in past Halloween Dances. We discussed possible ways to limit numbers without charging an entry fee to keep it open for building community. Natasha suggested enacting mandatory registration with no charge so we get a

sense of how many children are coming. Sonia confirmed her husband, DJ Warlock, will DJ. Mr. Hergott suggested pumpkin decorating and costume contests with fun categories.

#### *Other Fundraisers*

- Stacey asked the SC if there's interest in doing a cookie dough fundraiser with Terracotta. They also offer vegan, gluten-free, nut-free options. Stacey confirmed there is no minimum commitment and you make 40%.
- Stacey also suggested a Purdy's Chocolate fundraiser, which seems a lot more work.
- Amy volunteered to run the spring family fair.
- Natasha suggested we do a raffle and silent auction for the winter concert.
- **NEXT STEPS:**
  - ▶ **Stacey will pursue setting up the cookie dough fundraiser and look into a winter bazaar.**

## **7. Any Other Business**

None.

## **8. Next Meeting**

See everyone via Zoom only on **Tuesday, November 21.**

#### **Minutes reviewed by:**

**Bill Mah**

**Sarah Marriott**

# Council Survey Results

October 2023

## Council Priorities:

Family engagement	6
School facilities	5
School safety	4
Student success	4
Diversity, equity and inclusion	3
Parent, caregiver and school staff relationship building	3
Raise funds	3
Host events	1

## Presentation/Speaker Ideas:

- Something about self worth for students and believing in themselves
- Online safety and navigating technology from a parents standpoint
- Internet safety
- Social media safety
- Anti racism
- Diversity and inclusion
- Gender equity
- Paul - Online Safety
- Michelle Munroe - Anti-Racism

## Event Ideas:

- Games night
- Outdoor bbq in spring
- Guest speakers/presentations
- Fun fair
- Interactive STEM night
- Family dance
- Events that are accessible for many and not very expensive
- Culture show or fashion show which could help raise funds and encourage students to share their cultures with others as part of culture day/awareness as well.
- Holiday bizarre
- Swap shop

## School Council Innovation Grant Focus:

Creating safe spaces of belonging (tackling bullying and violence)	10
Mental health and well-being	5
Equity/anti-oppression	2
Engaging parents/caregivers in early literacy and numeracy	1

# Council Survey Results

October 2023

## Meeting Preferences:

### Method

Alternate between in-person and virtual	50.00%
Hybrid (offering both in person & virtual for each meeting)	40.00%
In-person	10.00%
Virtual	0%

### Time

7pm	7
3pm	2
6pm	2
6:30pm	1
8pm	1
Home by 8:00pm	1

### Day of Week

Tuesday	6
Wednesday	4
Thursday	3
Monday	3
Friday	1

## Comments re meetings

- I like that we mix up days so that families who can't make a certain night can come to a different meeting.
- I prefer in person for collaboration but know online allows more people to join so hybrid is important.
- May not always be able to attend in person depending on the day because of work

## Newsletter Ideas:

- Highlight role of council and the different roles people are doing.
- Shorten the newsletter and include photos

School Name: [Lanor Junior Middle School](#)

Budget Enrolment 2023 - 2024: **374**

<b>School Budget Allocations</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Base School and Small School Allocation Elementary \$5,000; Secondary \$10,000; Alternative Schools on stand alone site \$5,000 Small School Additional Base FTE <=200 \$5,500; FTE >200 <=250 \$2,750; FTE >250 <=300 \$1,650	\$5,000
General Per Pupil (\$90.72/Elem, \$133.65/Sec)	\$33,929
Library Per Pupil (\$14.25/Elem, \$19.35/Sec)	\$5,330
School Office Per Pupil (\$17.57/Elem, \$23.71/Sec)	\$6,571
Middle School Supplement (\$36.1/Grade 6-8)	\$5,957
French Immersion/Extended Supplement (\$13.5/pupil)	\$0
School Council (\$1.25/pupil, min \$300 max \$1,000)	\$468
Learning Opportunities Supplement ( weighted enrollment *15/Elem; \$8/Sec)	\$1,055
Student Financial Assistance (weighted enrollment*13/Sec)	\$0
Math Manipulative (\$4/Grade 7-12)	\$436
Professional Development (\$5/pupil)	\$1,870
International Baccalaureate Secondary (Base \$24,500 plus \$500/FTE enrolled in IB Program Grade 11/12) New Secondary site \$10,000 - for Staff Training and Site Fee Costs	\$0
Technical Education Supplement (\$13.00 - \$46.50 per credit)	\$0
Arts (\$13.5/credit)	\$0
Family Studies (\$27/credit)	\$0
Instrumental Music (\$45/credit)	\$0
Special Education Teacher Supplement	\$1,300
<b>Total Preliminary School Budget 2023-2024</b>	<b>\$61,916</b>