

**LeMarchant St. Thomas Home and School Association  
Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2018**

**Opening:**

Monthly meeting of LeMarchant St. Thomas Home and School Association was called to order by Lisa Sanderson.

In attendance: Lisa Sanderson, Piia Lintunen, Leah Rimmer, Melissa Shakespeare, Kirstin Weerdenburg, Moira Cavanaugh, Patricia Vargas, Martha Beyea, Jill DiPenta, Lizzie Moore, Christine Eisenhauer, Patty Lacas, Ewa Rasic, Suzanne Lacroix, Jenna MacLeod, Rebecca Davis, Pascale van der Leest, Regan Chapman, Monet Lamasan, Mary Beth Tighe

**Introductions of Executive & Meeting Attendees**

**Overview/Explanation of Home and School Association**

- Volunteer
- Conduct fundraising events – multiple throughout school year
- Financially support school activities, events, programs
- All communication primarily through Facebook page (strongly encouraged) and email

**Principal's Report**

- Looking forward to a great year!
- Vice Principal sends her regrets as she was unable to attend meeting
- Highlighted new staff at the school (list on the website)
- Monthly theme for September is RESPECT
- Enrolment of school – 20 classes, 454 students
- Described Caring Schools Community Program – training in next couple months for staff not yet trained
- Fine Arts Support Specialists now available this year, Ms Karyn Harrison is the Visual Arts Specialist
- Safety drills ongoing in Fall, includes fire drill and lockdown
- Stand Up Against Bullying Day already happened – lots of participation from students
- School Travel Planning Committee – encouraged people to be involved, goal is to encourage those to walk, cycle, scoot, etc, to reduce traffic congestion around school, Walk to School week (Oct 22-25), lead by Ecology Action Centre, work has been done already to make changes around school to make travel to school safer
- School Advisory Council – met last week, 3 open spots that were filled, bio of each person filling these spots to be included in next newsletter, explained different role this council has compared to this committee – advisory council, look at policies, discuss student success plan, provided input on new school, helped with new logo development, highlighted that one does not need to be a member to participate in meetings
- Cross country to start soon – grades 3-6, time is 12-12:30pm, starts on Tuesday, September 25 for Grades 3 and 6 and on Wednesday, September 26 for Grade 4 and 5, need volunteers to make sure kids are safe while running near the road

- Discussed Youth Running Series and encouraged to partake in these events
- Upcoming school events discussed – reminders to be sent, several in Sept/Oct
- Discussed school fundraisers – Halloween Walk-a-thon, Read-a-thon, Shopping Under the Stars

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Year-end report presented by Melissa Shakespeare
- Discussed specific allotments for each teacher to be used under their discretion
- Goal is to balance the budget each year
- Discussed the possibility of a musical this year as money was requested by a parent for this – Moira will follow up
- Discussed licensing requirements for some fundraisers

### **Upcoming Home and School Association Events**

- Nourish Your Roots – will accept cash and cheque (made out to LMST) for payment, parents/families can also donate a box to those in need (Moira and Mandy organize this donation)
- Movie Night – first is booked for Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, always have a canteen and will have babysitting available, need a volunteer to organize this
- Adult Event – raises money for Green Space Committee
- Holiday Wreathes – before winter holiday
- LMST Clothing – usually done before winter holiday
- Breakfast with Santa – need many volunteers for this event, to be located at Saint Antonios Church this year
- Will discuss the events after the winter holiday at following meeting

### **LMST Green Space/Garden Committee**

- Presented by Pascale van der Leest
- Discussed the benefits of outdoor play
- New school plans: creating a natural playground on one side, new play structures on another – in discussion with HRM as it will be located on city property, garden space – still in planning phase
- First meeting is October 3<sup>rd</sup> – looking for more volunteers for the Garden Committee

### **Other**

- Pizza – to start in October, order form will be sent out soon

### **Next Meeting**

- October 23, 2018 at 6pm

*Recorded by: Kirstin Weerdenburg*