

## **Laura Secord PAC Meeting Minutes**

### **Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 6:30 - 8 pm**

**Attendees:** PAC Chair (Anna Bishop), Treasurer (Jenna Siddle), Secretaries (Lindsay Macmillan), Communications Coordinator (Deborah So), Members At Large (Kalen Chang, Libby Kelly, Lori Sahlen), DPAC Rep (Emily Finn Galer)

**Admin/Staff:** Laurent Brisebois

#### **Territory Acknowledgement and Opening**

- The meeting was opened by PAC Executive Chair, Anna Bishop at 6:30 pm.

#### **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes**

- Anna Bishop moved to approve the minutes from the Laura Secord PAC general meeting on December 3, 2025. **The motion was approved.**

#### **Approval of Agenda**

- The meeting agenda was approved.

#### **Admin Update (Laurent Brisebois)**

- Safer School's "Respectful Digital Communities" presentation had been held for grades 6/7 which had been well received and was followed by great discussions with students.
- Basketball season had started for grade 7s. Unfortunately the deadline for registering a grade 6 team was missed, but they'll play intermural instead and be ready for next year.
- Secord's preparing for the new kindergarten class and is fully registered for September.
- Grade 7s are starting to prepare for high school and info nights from different schools being held this week. Parents with additional questions can direct them to Secord admiration. This year, information about high school choice programs and registration dates were included in the Secord newsletter which had been extremely beneficial.

#### **Review December Events/Treasurer's Report (Jenna Siddle)**

##### Book Fair

- Over \$5000 raised to go towards new books for the Secord library, classes and for Secord projects of teachers' choosing and was not a PAC fundraiser.

##### Purdy's

- Secord would be informed of the total raised from sales totals at the end of January.

##### Winter Warmer

- Raised \$880, \$216 of which would go towards the Evans Lake fund from the bake sale.

##### Additional Fundraisers

- Halloween Dance raised almost \$1600.
- Family photo night raised \$1000.
- Grad hoodies and spirit wear raised \$600.

##### Evans Lake Fundraising

- Roughly \$5000 has been raised for the trip so far, notably \$1500 from Neufeld Farms and \$1800 Sunoka Apples sales.

- Secord raised \$22,000 in 2025 to send kids to camp, but closer to \$30,000 would be needed for the 2026 camp due to cost increases. There was discussion of what would happen if the target isn't met and it was noted that a French Immersion fund had been used to subsidize part of previous trips and a larger part might have to be used this year if needed. Families would also potentially have to pay more, but efforts would be made to avoid that. New fundraising ideas and parent volunteers were needed.
- It was noted that Secord's silent auction was a major fundraising event in 2025, but several large companies that donated big ticket items in previous years said they wouldn't participate this year because Secord's not a registered charity.
- Laurent noted that because the VSB had mandated that children can only miss three days of school, the camp would only be for two nights in 2027 which would lower the costs. As an adjustment, there have been discussions of having the last day of camp be a full day rather than students coming home in the morning. Staffing the event was noted as another for the number of children attending because teachers needed to volunteer their time to be there. Parents can volunteer, but that can cause issues and grade 11 Van Tech students volunteer, but they still count as children which are included in the number requiring adult supervision.
- Secord is one of the only schools that still runs a sleep away camp and although eliminating it isn't being considered yet, it would have to be examined in the future. A leadership week with local daily excursions (e.g., going to Cypress Mountain) would be examined as an alternative.
- I-Chant Chiang had volunteered to help organize fundraisers of gift card and Pie Hole sales (avoiding selling pies at the same time as Neufeld Farm and Krispie Kream sales in February).

#### Upcoming Events (Anna Bishop):

##### Safer Schools - Cyber Bullying Presentation

- There was agreement that the annual "Respectful Digital Communities" presentations for grades 6/7 would be done by a variety of presenters so that the material is varied year after year.

##### Seleema Noon

- Body Science Boot Camp will be held for Secord parents on February 9 from 6:30 to 8 pm on [Zoom](#) to educate parents on how to discuss body science with their children, what topics are suitable for each age group and what material will be discussed in the student sessions in school (tailored to each grade) from February 10 to 12. Every other year, Saleema Noom (or one of her staff) presents at. Further information is included in the [Secord newsletter](#).

##### Red Cross Babysitting Course - February 13

- Because the fall session had filled so quickly, this second session would be held as a fundraiser for Evans Lake. Parent volunteers are needed for set up, morning and lunch breaks, and to clean up at the end of the day. **Jenna Siddle would email parents of children taking the course about volunteering. Libby Kelly, Lori Sahlen and Katya Lang volunteered to help during the breaks.**

##### Created By Kids Update

- Led by Mrs. Kwok, [Created by Kids](#) is a program where kids make art and that can be printed on cards, mugs, mousepads, etc. Teachers will send templates home by January 27, then families submit their orders online and return the templates to teachers by February 4. Secord must ship the artwork by February 6 and the products will be delivered March 2 to 6.

##### Possible New Convenience Hot Lunch Program

- Bittersweet Kitchen was being considered as another potential convenience hot lunch option, not as a PAC fundraiser. Further information would be provided in February.

## Open floor

### After School Programs

- Anuradha Rao reported that [Lights Up Theatre](#) is being discussed as an additional paid after school program option (not an alternative to the school's music program) for Secord students. Laurent noted that space availability would need to be examined and if it was viable, the PAC could help promote it and assess families' levels of interest to potentially set it up. **Anuradha will direct Lights-Up Theatre to contact Laurent about the after school program.**
- Unfortunately, the after school program run by Van Tech students no longer ran because it lost funding and the science club would no longer run because Ms. Linda had retired.

### Trivia Night

- Volunteers are needed to help run Secord's upcoming [trivia night](#) and Jodie Eaton has set up a WhatsApp group to discuss the event.

## DPAC Update (Emily Galer)

- Several resources are available on the [DPAC website](#) (a link can also be found on the [PAC website](#)), including learning and engagement initiatives and a new report on vaping. Feedback is also being solicited on the proposed VSB calendar and a petition for sibling priority.
- Everyone's welcome to attend DPAC meetings (listed on the [DPAC calendar](#)) which focussed on a variety of topics and could be especially valuable for parents seeking additional resources.

## Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm. Next meeting would be held Wednesday, February 25 at 6:30 pm.