

**Luther College Parent Association
Minutes for March 26, 2018**

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order** – David Gwilliam called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm by having everyone introduce themselves.

Attendees: Angela Bethune, Katherine Cheah, Merridy Ball, Kathy Gilbertson, Reola Mathieu, Candice Eirich, Maureen Harrison, Michelle Fritzler, Bryan Hillis, David Gwilliam, Jerry Arnold, Fawzy Girgis, Jerry Sherk, Margaret Anne Hodges, Katherine Roberts-Zimmer, Joanne Goodpipe, Jean Juno, Sara Hanson, Terelyne Vadebonocoeur

- 2. Review of Goals for 2017/2018 – David Gwilliam**

- Review of ICE parent information night in the fall, with the topic of internet safety.
- A second parent information night will be held in the spring.
- The fundraiser was held in January.
- A process for parent feedback has been initiated.

- 3. Information Night – David Gwilliam**

- Ideas that have been considered for the spring information night include anxiety, marijuana, and wellness.
- Following discussion, it was decided that student anxiety will be the topic of the next parent information night. If there's time in the calendar, an information night about marijuana and its medical effects will be added.

- 4. Luther Student Challenges – Mark Anderson**

- Mark presented a PowerPoint outlining the goals of Luther College and how the faculty works to help students meet the challenges of high school.
- He emphasized that because Luther is an IB school, the philosophy, which closely matches Luther's, is infused throughout the school.
- Luther faculty have addressed potential challenges with student workload through initiatives including grade nine study hall and transition classes, smaller class sizes, and administrative review of curriculum and student assignments.
- Luther faculty are committed to helping students learn to prioritize, learn organization skills, and understand that some stress is inevitable.
- There is a chain of relationships to follow to solve problems:
 - 1) student - teacher
 - 2) parent - teacher
 - 3) student - vice-principal/principal
 - 4) parent - vice-principal/principal
 - 5) parent - president

Families are encouraged to follow this sequence in seeking help with any concerns so as to build responsibility for the students, and because this is the most effective way of having a concern addressed.

5. Principal's Report – Mark Anderson

- The IB program is undergoing its five year review.
- Student numbers for next year look strong.
- A new English teacher to replace Clint Urich will be announced soon.
- The first full female draw at LIT was a success, and there was positive media coverage.
- The school will implement a new emergency response plan once the external partners are available to walk through the procedures with staff, and then students.
- Service Day is on Wednesday, March 28.
- The Senior Choir successfully performed at the Lincoln Center in New York on Saturday, March 17.
- AVE performed at the installation of the new Lieutenant Governor on March 21.

6. CAIS Update – Bryan Hillis

- Luther College successfully completed the three year accreditation process, and is the 94th school in CAIS.
- The school must respond to a full accreditation report including some recommendations. However, we have the freedom to reject some recommendations (e.g.: distance learning).
- The summary version of the CAIS report was sent out to parents via email. It may also be viewed on the school website.
- Faculty has responded very well to CAIS recommendations.
- Luther College is expected to respond to the CAIS recommendations by September 2018, though our goal is to have these responses submitted by the end of June.

7. Shindig 2018/Fundraiser 2019 – Sara Hanson

- This year's fundraiser, held on Saturday, January 20, raised \$20 000. The money will be used to finish the greenspace in the inner courtyard.
- The first meeting for next year's fundraiser will be held on April 16. A new chair and new theme are required, as well as ideas on how to encourage more parents to attend the event.
- There was discussion about moving the date to the fall, as more parents seem to be involved in school activities in the fall.
- It was discussed that it might be good to lower the price of admission in order to encourage better attendance.
- A short parent survey about the fundraiser may be sent to parents.

8. Parent Engagement Plan – Angela Bethune (Alumni Relations and Communications)

- Angela discussed ways in which other CAIS schools engage with parents, the vision Luther has for parent engagement, and four strategies that are being considered to promote parent engagement. (see attached) She then sought feedback on the plan from the group.
- There was a suggestion of having a “trade show” type event so that parents could better get to know the school.
- Ideas for survey questions were discussed, and there was a suggestion that any parents completing the survey be entered in a draw.

9. Questions from the Floor

- There was a question about the school’s anti-plagiarism program. It is called “Turn It In” and is being used for the first time this year. It is well-liked by teachers, and the license will be renewed for next year. Students are also able to use the program before handing work in, and have given positive reviews. The program is meant to catch malicious cheating, not unintentional.

10. Adjournment – David adjourned the meeting at 8:44 pm.