

**Luther College Parent Association
Minutes for October 2, 2018**

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order** – David Gwilliam called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm by having everyone introduce themselves.

Attendees: Katherine Cheah, Candice Eirich, Maureen Harrison, Michelle Fritzler, Bryan Hillis, David Gwilliam, Jerry Sherk, Margaret Anne Hodges, Tina Maki, Lisa Smith, Zhengqian (John) Kunng, Francis Seaman, Raji Babatunde, Maynard Sonntag, Anita Bhahla, Gurpreet Bhahla, Leta Seiferling, Mel Tiefenbach, Sannon Orell-Bast, Iryna Davydyan, Mark Anderson, Sara Hanson, Terelyne Vadebonocoeur

- 2. Parent Survey Results – Bryan Hillis** (see attached document)

- There was good feedback from the survey completed in June 2018, with responses equalling a 47.4% response rate.
- Portions of the report were highlighted, including some areas that are being addressed and rectified.
- Questions from the floor were clarified by Bryan.

- 3. Strategic Plan – Bryan Hillis**

- The current strategic plan is for three years, ending in June 2019. It can be found on the Luther website.
- The Board wishes to have a new plan in place to immediately follow the current plan. This will ensure that there will be an overlap between presidents, as Bryan is planning on retiring in June 2020.
- Bryan asked that parents consider ideas they may have for the strategic plan. The Board has final say in the plan, but input is taken from parents, faculty, and staff.
- Special consultation meetings will be held in 2019. The plan will be finalized during the summer and fall.
- See the attached document for a simple summary of the risks considered by the Board as they go through the strategic plan and budget process. Bryan emphasized that none of the areas listed are currently in failure; some are considered 'red' (Board code for needing attention and additional resources), such as developing and maintaining strong alumni networks.

- 4. Fundraiser – Margaret Anne Hodges and Katherine Cheah**

- This is the fifth year of the fundraiser. In the past it's been held on the Saturday during finals in January, but it was decided that the event would be moved to November 3 this year.
- Over the course of the previous five years, over \$115 000 has been raised. This money has paid for the furniture in the student commons, landscaping, sound equipment, and student technology.

- Funds raised this year will be used to further enhance athletics and culture at the school.
- The theme this year is “Totally Throwback ‘80s Dance Party”. Tickets are \$60 each and available online. The link can be found on the Luther website. There will be door prizes, a silent auction, and a gift card wall.
- The committee is requesting both volunteer help and donations for the door prizes, silent auction, and gift card wall.
- Margaret and Katherine emphasized that the event is not only a fundraiser, but also a community builder for parents.

5. Luther Parents’ Association Goals – David Gwilliam

- The Association will be hosting two information nights for parents this year. The first will be on a wellness theme, to be booked for November. There was some discussion about topic ideas for a spring information night. Many parents were interested in inviting a doctor to speak about marijuana use by teenagers.
- The Association will have two meetings during the school year, this meeting, and one on March 5.
- We will continue to look for opportunities for feedback.
- A new Association Chair will be required for the 2019-2020 school year, as David’s son is graduating.

6. Principal’s Report – Mark Anderson

- **Survey** - The OURSchool Survey was completed by students in the spring of 2018. Luther was part of the 92% of schools in Saskatchewan that completed this survey. Mark highlighted some of the findings, which included that Luther’s ELA scores are on par with scores across Canada, while math and science scores are significantly higher than the Canadian average. Students reported that procrastination and perspective were major factors in their workload. An area in which Luther students scored very poorly was in the number of students who reported being depressed and anxious, but Luther is not far off the Canadian norms.
- **Workload** – During the summer faculty retreat, teachers worked on creating a calendar for each grade, so that major assignments (worth more than 10%) will not be assigned in multiple classes at the same time. A commitment was also made to avoid due dates and exams around LIT, musical, and midterm and final exam periods. As always, the expectation is that “busy work” will not be assigned.
- **Enrollment** – The current enrollment is 467 students, with 127 students in grade 9, 115 students in grade 10, 113 students in grade 11, and 112 students in grade 12. There are 250 female students, and 217 male students. Seventy students are international students, representing 29 different countries. Eighty-five students live in dorms.

- **New Positions** – There was a 50% administrative assistant position added in order to support Mark and Renee Wilkinson. The position is filled by Wendy Sauer. A 50% Student Success Coordinator was added, and was filled by Jessica Pultz. Sarah Punshon was hired as a full-time Academic Support Coordinator. She will be available to help students who need extra support, and to help faculty support those students. She will work with the most academically high-risk students, who have an existing diagnosis.
- **Security Upgrades** – Since September 10, all entrances are locked 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students can always enter through the west doors, while everyone else enters through the Royal Street entrance. The school is currently working with the Regina Police Service to develop best practices for lockdowns and evacuations.
- **Wellness Initiatives** – The IB programme focuses on a well-rounded education through its CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) model. Luther has always had all students complete a service activity, and in the future would like every student to complete all the CAS expectations. This year, physical activity will be added. Four days have been planned for throughout the year, when students will have 12 different options of physical activities they can participate in. The activities will be done at the end of the day, and appropriate clothing for physical activity will be expected. The first wellness day will be on October 12. This is a one year trial, with the aim being to have 100% student involvement. There is also 100% teacher involvement. This is considered a starting point that will evolve over time.

7. President's Report – Bryan Hillis

- **CAIS (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools)** - As a member school, Luther is required to meet 12 National Standards and undergo rigorous accreditation review every seven years, enabling the school to be more responsive and accountable to its community. The emphasis of CAIS is continuous school improvement. To see a summary of the CAIS report and recommendations of areas that Luther needs to work on, see the Luther website. A letter from the Executive Director of CAIS is also attached to these minutes.
- **New Act** – The current Act of Luther was composed in 1969, and is being updated. It is not expected to change the operation of the school in any way. It will be passed sometime during this Legislative session.
- **Uniforms** – Luther is one of only two schools in CAIS that does not have uniforms. Although uniforms would have the positive effect of potentially increasing school pride and erasing social inequalities, a downside could include seeming elitist and discouraging students from coming to Luther. The school will plan to have a Chapel to begin a discussion with students, and possibly include parents from both sides of the issue to debate the topic.
- **Course Size** – The average class size this year is slightly under 23 students per class.

- ***Time to Build*** – This debt continues to be paid; we are still looking for funds to pay off the remaining \$2M.
- ***ESL*** – Two new ESL portables are being planned. The portables are being paid for through the ESL students being charged an extra facility fee. Bryan noted that the ESL program never loses money.

8. Adjournment – David adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.