

**Luther College Parents' Association
Minutes for October 2, 2019**

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- Jerry Sherk, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. Luther College 101 – Karl Tiefenbach, Chair of the Board of Regents

- Karl brought greetings from the Board.
- **Board Operations** - A brief overview of how the Board works was given. It is an 18 person volunteer board responsible for the high school and the college. The Board nominates new Board members, and members are able to stay for two terms of four years each. They are pleased to have gender parity on the Board, and a variety of skill sets. They hope in the future to add more diversity to the Board. Karl emphasized that it is a governance board, not an operational board.
- **Presidential Search** – Bryan Hillis will be retiring in June 2020. The Board has been working with the Geldart Group from Vancouver to find and shortlist appropriate candidates for president. The Board hopes to make an announcement regarding the new president in January, with the individual beginning work on July 1.

3. Fundraiser – Jerry Sherk

- The Black and Gold Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, November 17, beginning at 11:30 am.
- Part of the event will be a cake decorating competition, with Le Macaron providing chefs and cakes to be decorated by four teams of students.
- Unlike past fundraisers, this is meant to be a family friendly event.
- Proceeds from the event go directly back to the school to support students. This year's goal is to raise \$30 000 for student technology upgrades.
- The school [website](#) has further information about ticket prices and sponsorship opportunities.

4. G-Mail Account – Jerry Sherk

- The Parents' Association's email address is luthercollegeparents@gmail.com. Please forward any suggestions and ideas you have for the Association to Jerry at this address.

5. Principal's Report – Mark Anderson

- **Student Survey** – Students will complete the OurSchool Survey on October 29 in their TAGs. This is a survey of set questions, with three questions at the end that Luther is able tailor. The Ministry of Education requires it to be completed twice a year. Results are then able to be compared provincially and nationally. National comparisons from the spring 2019 survey highlighted that Luther's marks are

above the national average in core classes, and that Luther students report high levels of anxiety and depression.

- **Dress Code** – The dress code was tweaked for the new school year. The primary changes were the banning of leggings, and the allowance of coloured jeans. There have been relatively few violations. Administration has been talking to students about dress code being an attitude; school is their place of work, and they should dress accordingly. One issue that has come up is “distressed” (ripped) jeans. A letter will be sent home clarifying that this style is not appropriate for dress down days.
- **Aspen/MySchoolSask** – This is the new data management system that will replace OSA. It is a province-wide system that Luther plans to take live in February 2020. Luther is ahead of schedule in their implementation plan, and faculty have been receiving training in operating MSS. Parents will be notified when they are able to have their accounts.
- **Support for Struggling Students** – If a student is struggling in a particular subject, the teacher should always be contacted first. The second point of contact should be the VP of Academics, Renee Wilkinson. Some other supports the school provides are study hall in grade 9, a student success coordinator, an academic support coordinator (through referral only), two counselors, one nurse, one chaplain, transitions class (grade 9), tutors, peer support, and student services sessions on exams.
- **Security Upgrades** – On October 11, RPS will work with staff on emergency protocols for the Semple, Belsher, and cafeteria.
- **Grade 12 Exit Survey** – The survey had a 76% response rate. The primary reason students cite for being at Luther is for university preparation/academics/good education. Community also rates highly. Disadvantages stated included workload and homework, stress, and lower grades than other schools. Asked whether they would recommend Luther to friends and siblings, 55% of the grade 12s said yes, 35% said maybe (always qualified with statements such as “if they don’t mind working hard”, etc.), and 10% said no.
- **Parent Survey** – Parents complete surveys every spring. There were 175 responses this year. The overall satisfaction rate among Luther parents is 87%, an increase from 83% in 2018.
Action plans for addressing concerns are created from the surveys. Some concerns were resolved from the 2018 survey, while others have been carried over to the 2019-2020 school year.

2018 Survey Actions

- Amount and timing of homework
- Continued focus on athletic programming
- Started transition away from OSA
- Continued to focus on parent philanthropy and engagement
- Continued to improve food service/dining areas

2019 Survey Actions

- Continue to tweak student workload
 - Quality and timing of assessments and feedback
 - Potential reasons for 12% drop in general satisfaction with cultural opportunities
 - Continue working on coaching supports and training
 - Improving menu options
 - Ways to increase responses from dorm parents
 - Improve parent communication (through MSS)
- **Questions** – a variety of questions were asked from the floor, including about parent/teacher conferences, open house/parent information nights, clubs, study hall, OSA, staff contact on the website, and midterms.

6. President's Update – Bryan Hillis

- Bryan discussed the process involved in creating the next strategic plan (2020-2022). This will be a bridging plan, to accommodate the new president.
- Bryan discussed building diversity in the school, and the importance of not only keeping diversity, but also serving it well.
- Bryan asked parents what in the environment will affect the school in the short and long term, and what strategic initiatives will make the school better.
- Before the end of his tenure as president, Bryan would like to develop a tool to give to universities to describe Luther's rigor and marking. This would help alleviate students feeling disadvantaged by their marks when applying to university.

7. Adjournment – Jerry adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm.