

**Luther College Parent Association  
Minutes for October 3, 2016**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order** – Sara Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Attendees:** Sara Hanson, Mark Anderson, Bryan Hillis, Antoinette le Roux, Terelyne Vadeboncoeur, Margaret Anne Hodges, Candice Eirich, Leigh Spence, Theo le Roux, David Gwilliam, Richard Li, Lisa Mann, Michelle Fritzler

**2. CAIS Visitation – Bryan Hillis**

- The Canadian Accredited Independent Schools is a community of independent schools who choose to meet and exceed rigorous National Standards that inspire continuous whole school improvement.
- Luther College High School is currently a provisional member of CAIS, having passed the first stage of the accreditation process.
- Luther had been a part of CAIS until about a decade ago. Administration believes that membership in the organization would again be valuable. Being members of CAIS will be a way of keeping Luther up to the best standards, and having a way to compare ourselves to other schools. CAIS provides excellent professional development opportunities. Schools must go through the evaluation process every seven years.
- The process to becoming accredited has been very beneficial. David Keeping was responsible for the majority of the written preparation, consulting widely with staff, faculty and administration. Internal evaluations have been completed based on CAIS' 12 standards. The evaluations have included looking at areas such as investments, hiring practices, academic programs, co-curricular programs, human resources and leadership succession to name just a few. About 85-90% of the process has been completed.
- A team of seven evaluators from CAIS will be visiting Luther from April 30 to May 3. Jeff Aitken from St. John's-Kilmarnock School will lead the committee, and Anne-Marie Kee, the Executive Director of CAIS, will also be in attendance.
- The team will interview staff, students, parents, and alumni as part of the evaluation, and Bryan asked for six or seven parents to volunteer to meet the committee for lunch on Monday, May 1.
- We will know if Luther has received full accreditation and entrance into CAIS by the time the team leaves on May 3. Luther would be the 92<sup>nd</sup> school in Canada to be a part of CAIS.
- For more information about CAIS, see their website at: <https://www.cais.ca/>.

**3. Shindig 2017/Gala 2018 – Antoinette le Roux**

- The Shindig on January 21 was a huge success, having raised more than \$30 000. The money will go towards connectivity in the classrooms and laptop carts.

- This is the third year of Gala/Shindig fundraiser, and more than \$100 000 has been raised in that time period.
- Sara will chair the Gala in 2018, which means that David will take over as chair of the parent association.

#### **4. Parent Organization Goals Moving Forward – David Gwilliam and Sara Hanson**

- David and Sara spoke about how they would like this organization to be more structured in the future, and model itself more like the School Community Councils they were familiar with in their children’s elementary schools.
- They would like to have formal positions including chair, vice-chair, secretary, etc. In addition, they want to have events coordinators, such as the coordinators for Gala and All-College, and a coordinator/facilitator for parent information nights. They believe it would be helpful to have a volunteer coordinator position for the times in the year when parents are asked to volunteer at functions such as musical and LIT.
- Agendas of the meetings will follow a regular format, which will include a spot for reports from the president and principal.
- They plan to have a calendar in place for the beginning of September so that the parent association is organized for the beginning of the school year.

#### **5. Act of Luther College – Dave Solheim, Vice-Chair of Luther College Board of Regents and Chair, Governance Cttee of Luther College Board of Regents**

- Dave described how there were a number of small problems with the acts and bylaws of Luther College, and that changing small parts meant changing the entire act.
- After giving some background history of the school, and pointing out that the Act of Luther has been changed about every 20 years since 1969, Dave described how the Act will once again be changed over the next year (see attached slides).
- The two main messages that Dave brought parents were that the new Act will “bring the corporation home” (decisions will be made locally by people with a vested interest in the school, not by delegates from around the country who attend the Lutheran convention), and that the Act will not modify the Board of Regents of the school.
- The new corporation will include a parent representative. The Act should come into force sometime in 2018.
- The parents’ group was receptive to having a representative as a member of the corporation as the new Act indicates.

#### **6. School Updates and Questions from the Floor – Mark Anderson and Bryan Hillis**

- **Retirements:** Clint Uhrich and Nancy Ostime will both be retiring at the end of June. Students recently had a farewell for both teachers in Chapel. Renee Wilkinson has been named the new vice-principal. She and Nancy are working

together to ensure a smooth transition. Clint's job is being advertised until the end of March.

- **Campus Security:** Security is being looked at with CAIS. Shawn Stieb is taking responsibility for the school's security plan.
- **Class Selection:** Class selection for next year is due on March 24.
- **Midterms:** There is no formal midterm week this April. Teachers have expressed that they don't want to lose a week of instructional time, and as Luther is a university preparatory school, it's not realistic to have a week of midterms as this isn't what students will experience in university. It's believed that having the November midterms and two sets of finals will still provide students with the test-writing experience they require. Teachers have been requested to try to coordinate exams and projects during this period so that students aren't overwhelmed. Because instructional time isn't being lost to exam week, faculty are trying to plan a service afternoon and an experiential afternoon for students. There was discussion that this change in midterms had not been clearly communicated by the school, so Mark will send out an email explaining the rationale. Students, teachers, and parents will all be asked for feedback on this change so that the school can decide what to do in coming years.
- **All-College Date:** Jon Graf and the SRC set the date around school activities such as music festival, badminton, and IB exams.
- **IB Drama:** To be able to offer IB Drama, Drama 20 and 30 would have to be converted to IB only. There would be scheduling conflicts and students who wouldn't participate in drama if it changed to IB.
- **Budget:** Administration won't really know how the budget will affect Luther until the October government grant is determined which we will know when the March 22 budget is delivered.
- **Cafeteria Menu:** Sometimes the same meat is served in quick succession because it is economical. Mark Anderson will speak to Mike Stobbs about trying to avoid this.
- **International Students:** There is concern among some international students that Luther has very high standards that may make it difficult to get into the university of their choice. The benefits of Luther's high standards were reviewed.
- **OSA:** OSA will be changed in the next year because the language of the platform is archaic and the school wants more functionality.

**7. Adjournment** – Sara adjourned the meeting at 9:27 pm.