

McMath Virtual PAC Meeting - Sept. 20th, 2022

Minutes

Attending: Dionne M (Chair), Samantha H (Vice-Chair), Jon L (Co-Treasurer) Winson L (Co-Treasurer), Ledi D (Secretary), Andrew S (RDPA), Abhandal, Alan L, Amy R, Annan F, Annie W, Annie, Arthur W, Asuman, Carol, Carolyn F, Catherine, Cecilia W, Charlotte, Cheyna, Christian H, Christine, Cinda W, Dani, Dora L Eliza W, Gargi D, Federica C, Gargi D, Grace L, Greta C, Heidi M, Hyoko, iPhone 110, Cathy S, Helmut D, Henry, Ivy G, Jenny M, JF, Judy W, Karen F-H, Karin, Kelli S, Kelly, Kent W, Kevin, L. Wilson, Laura, Leo, Luke, Maila V, Mary, Melanie K, Michelle K, Mirit M, Nicole S, Nicole W-C, Oliver, Peter, Rajan, Raymond T, Ryan L, Sibbo, Silvia, Tak L, Tawnya, Tieu N, Tracy, Tracy H, Udayana, Vincent C, Vicky Y, Yilin, Zoe X, Meng, 1819109's iPhone.

Meeting opened at: 7:00pm by Dionne

1. Adoption of Agenda

Approved: Samantha and Cheyna

2. Adoption of Minutes

Approved: Samantha and Jon

3. Welcome and Introductions

Samantha H. welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our new Principal Mr. Jeff Johnstone as well as the executive members for the 2022/23 school year.

Samantha H made a call out for anyone willing to be Co-Secretary with Ledi, unfortunately no offers at this time. Please shout out at the end of the meeting if interested or contact the PAC by emailing mcmathpac@gmail.com.

4. Principal's Report & answering pre- submitted parent questions

Mr. Jeff Johnstone welcomed us to the 2022/23 School year. Reminder that it is a short week this week due to the Monday holiday yesterday.

Territory Acknowledgement – We would like to start by acknowledging the land where we gather today, the unceded territories of the people of the Hən̓q̓əmin̓əŋ language group who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial.

Mr. Johnstone has already met many parents as they drop off and pick up their children and, in the office, answering questions. He is very pleased to be at McMath. This is the 10th school he has worked in and 7th as a Principal or Vice Principal. He grew up in the Mond's in Richmond and went to Hugh Boyd and Steveston High. He has previously worked in Coquitlam, Delta, Surrey and now in Richmond.

This is an exciting year with not as much of a covid dark cloud causing problems getting started. A wonderful start so far and it is exciting.

Mr. Johnstone had an amazing mentor many years ago and he used the metaphor “Magic in the Classroom” this is when students and teachers are engaged in their work together, as that's when learning happens. The magic in the classroom needs to be optimised and the best that it can be. Mr. Johnstone's job is to be an advocate for a student, in helping them to get what they need, to help them with their magic. This also applies to staff and teachers. His big goal is that every student moves on to whatever they want to do after high school, walking across the Grad stage with dignity and purpose.

Covid & Health Procedures

No formal health restrictions. Just remember: -

- stay home when sick,
- personal hygiene with coughing and sneezing,
- mask wearing is a personal choice.

Observed 1/4 to 1/3 of students and staff are masking. Masks are available at the office for those who would like one.

Staffing Updates

It has been a challenge with teachers moving to new schools/positions at the beginning of the school year. We still have 2 teacher positions to fill. Our counsellors are Mr. Vernier, Ms. Bagnall (new) and Mr. Arena (new), however, Ms. Chen is here for only 2 weeks and will move to Burnett. We are still needing one more counsellor and we are still needing a Tech Ed teacher. It is difficult to find a teacher currently as all districts are recruiting. There are a couple of plans that can be implemented if we can't find a teacher. Our new teachers, Mr. Hong, Science FI teacher was at McMath last year as a student teacher and Ms. P Bassir is teaching English. Teachers who have moved schools are Mr. Pattern to Richmond Virtual School, Ms. Azadmard is on parental leave, and Ms. Marin is now a District Consultant Teacher but is at McMath every Thursday morning supporting teachers.

Facility Update - Vandalism

Disappointed in the vandalism over the late spring and summer. Multiple break ins through door and windows and someone was able to get into the main office and stole a set of keys with a door fob. That individual was going in and out of McMath and Lord Byng multiple times. It took some time to realise it wasn't a staff member accessing the buildings. All locks of the school have now been re-keyed which was a huge cost and took a lot of time.

Last Friday, late evening a fire was set at the wooden ramp of the portable, 2 fire trucks were used to put the fire out. It is being investigated by RCMP for arson.

Often over the weekends groups of 50+ kids are hanging out leaving broken alcohol glass bottles, bongs etc.

PAC Question from a Parent- "What are we doing and what are our plans about this?"

The district has hired Security Guards on Friday night when the custodians leave and remain all weekend. This has made a slight improvement. Students at G10, 11 and 12 assemblies have been asked to report any information to RCMP non-emergency number.

Unfortunately, McMath is #1 for vandalism frequency and cost of vandalism here in Richmond School District. In the new year extensive internal and external security cameras will be installed. There should be about 40-50 cameras. This will hopefully deter this activity and find out who is doing it, so some arrests could be made.

District Procedures

District Code of Conduct is available on the district website. It is in place for everyone, students, staff, volunteers, and parents/caregivers. If it is violated, then there are procedures to follow.

School fees

School activity fee is \$28. This is the same for all secondary students across the district. Each school decides on the purpose and use of the fees. This year it covers Student Council, Agenda and new App, Athletics fee, Communication, Awards, Activities, Leadership Program, Locker App etc.

Provincial Student and Family Affordability Fund

Provincial government has given \$1.96 million to the student and family affordability fund. The purpose is to cover fees, field trips, food etc. Anyone who feels they need support for some of these fees then please email Principal or one of the counsellors. No need to prove need with documentation, it's an honour system.

Agenda & My School Day App

Made a switch to app due to paper Agenda's not being used by students and many being thrown in the garbage unused at the end of the school year on locker clean-up day. Grade 8 students will receive a paper agenda. All other students will use the app. Having the app increases communication/announcements and it is always in the student's pocket. Some students don't have phones, so we need to have paper agendas for those who need them. Those students who need an agenda can get one from the office. Dione suggested that we do a Survey Monkey for next year school year, to ask who needs an agenda vs who wants to continue with the app.

Sharing important school communications

McMath is very active on social media, tonnes of information on the Website, My School Day App, Twitter, Instagram. There is also the Weekly WAAG, will consult with PAC if it is possible to move it from weekly to monthly instead.

Gentle Reminders

- Parents, please phone or email in absences on the Early Warning Line.
- Please make sure your kids are on time, especially with the upcoming winter months. They need to hustle to class.
- PLT is optional across the grades. It's being used well. It is instructional time for teachers if they are not having PLT session they are having their allotted prep time. Lots of activities going on i.e., open gym.
- Cars going too fast in the roundabout, car parks and in the neighbourhood.
- Communicating with staff over email. Please understand it may take 1 or 2 days to get a reply as many teachers have 120 students on their case load. Maybe wait 24 hours if you are feeling heated, pause and send it later.
- We are all part of the Steveston village, and it also takes a village to take kids where they need to be. Keep in touch if there is anything that the school needs to be aware of i.e., a pet passing away etc. Important that we are teaching with care and compassion every day.

Upcoming Events and Dates

Picture day possibly moved to Oct 4th.

Sept 22 - G12 Parent Info Night and Meet the Teacher

Sept 23 - Pro-D Day

Sept 28 - Collab Day 9:30am start

Sept 30 - Truth and Reconciliation Day

Parent questions

1. What strategic plans are in place to deal with ongoing weekend/nighttime school yard activity? A. This was previously talked about earlier in this meeting.
2. What are the plans to support student body mental health and wellbeing? A. We will be coming up with a better plan.

3. My son completed summer school course and is now eligible to take a different PE class. I noticed there are several PE courses, which one should he take? A. This is a more personalised question, please call Mr. Johnstone for more details.

4. Do you have any updates on the Costa Rica Trip and who are the teachers assigned for this trip? Mr. Mark Pattern is now working with R.V.S. so will not be going. Have asked other staff to fill in as chaperones. Ms. Flockhart (Admin Assistant) will be going, and we have a backup for her if she is unable to go. We do not have a male chaperone, but Mr. Johnstone is the backup. Alex Campbell has been running this program for 21 years and will be meeting with him in October. Pretty confident that the trip will go ahead.

Questions from Parents at the meeting: -

Cathy – noted that the first 2 parent questions were from her. She lives across from the school and sees all the chaos in the school yard when the lights turn off. Calls to RCMP and non-emergency line but the response it is too late. Offered to help moving forward. Many kids are struggling having just come out of covid and not having had so many social interactions over the past few years.

Jeff - it's a problem across districts. Every police jurisdiction is hiring now. It's a minority causing the problem. It's important as parents to know where your kids are, who are they out with, what have they been doing? Ask them these questions. Sometimes custodians don't feel safe moving around the school to do their job because of the large number of students.

Cathy - her and her husband are happy to sit down and offer suggestions and help plan. Kids have been sheltered the past few years, coming out of covid there has been many problems.

Dionne - This is a new issue for McMath, we haven't really had the hoards before. It's a shame but hopefully something will start shifting this year and it will start settling down.

Jeff - Questions from the zoom chat -

- Mr. Pattern was doing the Ski club, but it should go forward this year as there is a teacher willing to run it. Mr. Johnstone will be the back-up for the ski club. There will be more information to come.
- There won't be a Grade 8 Camp, but we will be doing Grade 8 day at a facility and come back for lunch and a t-shirt will be supplied. Possibly Oct 12th. Ms. Zaine and the leadership group are organizing it. More to come.
- Meet the Teacher Night - There's no need to book. You will follow your teenager's schedule. If more than one child, you will need to divide and conquer.

Dionne - Will we be doing the G8 camp next year?

Jeff – We are unsure. We still have a deposit with the old camp, but they are going bankrupt so we may need to find somewhere else.

Cinda – Do students need to sign up for PLT?

Jeff - Students do not need to sign up for PLT, it is first come first served. Library and gym max out early but if the students are on time, they should be able to get in.

5. RDPA Report – Andrew Scallion (President)

- the role of the RDPA

We are the district PAC and represent the parent voice at the district level. Every school can elect 1 representative to attend meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings but anything that requires a vote then only the representative can vote. Each school has only 1 vote. We sit on committees throughout the district as a stakeholder group we also represent the parent voice on many of the trustee committees as well.

- updates from the district

Next RDPA Meeting will be on Oct 5th and Jane McMillan, Assistant Superintendent will be attending. She will be talking about the Affordability Fund. The first will be a Zoom meeting and then hopefully a hybrid model after that.

PAC 101 workshop and Dry Grad workshop coming up later this year. Information for a workshop on Constitutions and By-laws will be coming out soon.

Electing a new School Board, Andrew is on the ballot, he is passionate and would like to continue to contribute to the district. Please vote for Andrew.

6. Treasury Update – Jon / Winson (Co-treasurers)

Update from the last meeting on May 17th, we had \$1,900 in the general account. We received some donations from parents, and we did a staff appreciation in June. We received a donation from the ANAF Steveston Ladies Auxiliary for a scholarship but as we don't do that, we transferred it over to the school, so you will see a debit there. Our current general account balance is \$101.62 and there is nothing upcoming to be spent.

For the gaming account the opening balance as of mid-May was just over \$24,000. We did have reimbursements for various clubs which brought it down yesterday to \$11,675. There are still some items that need follow up such as the final mid-May to June club wish list reimbursements which should be cleared soon. We have PAC scholarships once the students have done their registrations and we can send them the PAC Scholarship cheque. We have just over \$5,000 in the gaming account to carry over to this school year.

Dionne - PAC Exec has made a request to staff, clubs, and extra-curricular to send in their gaming grant wish list. We will be gathering gaming grant wish lists, and this will be brought up in the

October Meeting. This is a very important meeting to attend as we can help a lot of different clubs and activities to enhance the students experience at McMath.

7. Constitution Changes – PAC Executive

Change the wording of Section 11 - Finances of the McMath Constitution. This will be advertised under the PAC section on the school website with the exact wording. It will be up for 30 days for anyone to make comment and give feedback.

As per the Gaming Grant, the change is so that the 2 Signing Officers need to be members of the PAC Exec. This is important that this is updated for the safety of the PAC money. The change will be voted on at the October PAC meeting.

8. PAC sharing or New Business

Samantha - Fundraising for elementary school are different to high school. We ask parents to consider donating to the school, so there is no need to door knock etc. Some of the funds available are for Teacher Appreciation lunch, retirements, to support the student body, if there's been a loss in the student body to support the family etc. Gaming grant funds go to different things than the PAC donations from parents. The easiest way is to donate is to e-transfer to McMathPAC@gmail.com. Donations can also be dropped at the office in an envelope.

Dionne - PAC is here to support you and is your voice. Upcoming elections it is important that we get out and vote as a community.

9. Meeting Adjournment

Dionne - Hoping to do in person meetings in the future. Send in your thoughts on this and we will bring this up at our October meeting. Thanks for coming out tonight

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm – Approved by Jon and Samantha

Next PAC Meeting: October 18th, 2022 at 7pm

After the meeting Lingley W has offered to be Co-secretary with Ledi.