

Minutes of McMath Virtual PAC Meeting - 7pm April 18, 2023

McMath PAC acknowledges and thanks the first peoples of the hə́n̓ q̓ əmíhəm̓ language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

Attending: Dionne M (Chair), Samantha H (Vice-Chair), Jon L (co-Treasurer), Winson L (co-Treasurer), Ledi D (co-Secretary), Lingly W (co-Secretary), Jeff J (Admin), Eleanor C, Dora, Dora L, Helmut, Ivy G, Meng, Ridout, Sharmilla, Shasha Y, Silvia, Tawnya, Vicky Y, Cinda W, HM, Cathy S, Jack C, Matthew, Mikko, Melanie K.

Meeting Opened at: 7pm by Dionne

1. Adoption of the Agenda: Motion by Winson, Second by Samantha

2. Adoption of March Minutes: Motion by Jon, Second by Winson

3. Welcome and Introductions:

Dionne reviewed housekeeping rules. Asked attendees to mute their microphones unless they are talking to minimize audio feedback.

May meeting will be the second to last meeting of the school year and it will also be PAC AGM. 2023/2024 Executive needs to be voted. PACs require a full panel of Executives in order to meet Gaming Grant requirements. Currently the role of PAC Chair and Secretary needs to be filled for next year. While Jon and Dionne are phasing out of the school system, Samantha will be able to provide support for the new Chair.

4. Principal's Report and Q&A:

- Dionne asked Jeff for feedback on the Teacher's Appreciation luncheon. Would the teachers like to stick with a similar set up as last year or back to the old set up of a bigger luncheon. Jeff will ask teachers and send Dionne feedback.
- Lots have been happening with holidays like Passover, Easter, Ramadan, EID, etc.
- Enrollment Trends:
 - Enrollment has dropped a little for next year at 1140 students from 1192 of this year.
 - Drop in student enrollment does cause some issues like staffing. Administration will need to figure out how many full and/or part-time staff will be needed.
 - International division in the district showing more for next year so that may help with raising the student numbers. But there is some uncertainty.
 - With China opening, options for schooling overseas resumes. May see impact from that.
 - Jeff speculations that slow housing growth in McMath catchment is having an impact. Byng Elementary is also showing a smaller Gr. 6 class this year.

- Question: Dionne pointed out McMath had always been full. Is it now able to open to more transfers? Is the French program also showing a drop in enrollment?

Jeff noted that the French program is also showing low enrollment. Currently 93 Gr. 8 students are coming in for next year. Even with a drop in enrollment, McMath is still closed to transfers from other catchments. Decision to remain a closed catchment is a district decision.

- Portable is not permanently used right now for class but as an extra space.
- How We Work with RCMP:
 - Jeff wanted to clarify possible miss conception that there is always a school nurse and resource officers on school grounds all the time. There isn't any. Staff assist with issues and call out for resources when needed.
 - The district has a relationship with the RCMP, RCMP does not have the resources for full staff.
 - When needed, staff calls RCMP for issues like - non Emergency incidents, when student code of conduct is violated, assault or accidents during school hours. Incidents that happen off school grounds but during school hours is also a responsibility of the school.
 - Staff calls RCMP Corporal of School Liaison for resource officers to be assigned to help address issues.
 - Parents are always informed and involved.
 - When are calls not made? Incidents that take place outside of school hours then the responsibility is up to the student and parents to call RCMP according to RCMP protocol. Staff assist where they can but ultimately the responsibility is on the family. Staff can not report or call RCMP if an event happens outside of school hours. For example some incidents happen over the weekend, staff can only speak with the parents and have parents decide what actions they want to take.
 - However, there are circumstances if safety is an issue, then the school will reach out to parents and RCMP.
- Question from iPhone2: If student comes into school under the influence, how is that dealt with? Hearing about Gr. 8 and 9 students coming into school under the influence.

Jeff: In these situations the school calls the parents. If there are dealers identified then RCMP are called. Students who violate the schools code of conduct, parents are called but not RCMP. Staff are addressing challenges like vaping pens in washrooms.
- How can we work together?
 - There has been a lot of support from students.
 - There does seem to be a culture of silence. We need to speak up if someone has crossed the line. A culture change that needs to come from the community and family. Past summer, only two tips came through regarding vandalism of school property. This was not enough for RCMP to do anything. We need to encourage more students to speak up.

Question from Cathy: Is there a confidential call/tip line for students?

Jeff: It has been relayed to students they can email if there are tips. For example when the fire alarm was pulled today, 10 emails were received from students with tips. Kids have either emailed directly or created anonymous email accounts to send tips.

Jeff's experience from Surrey district where they have a platform for students to email anonymously. SD38 has not been asked about using a similar online reporting platform as Surrey.

Cathy suggested some sort of drop box or other confidential way to allow students to report incidents, bullying, assault etc. Maybe have senior students help with ideas.

Dionne said the conversation has been had at district level. It's talked about but nothing right now from the district.

Jeff's experience at the Surrey district has offered great insight. Bulk of the kids are great, a handful of issues. Jeff does feel frustrated with some of the limitations the staff has.

- **Traffic Report:**

- Bill D. from the City of Richmond was out to survey traffic flow on April 4. Bill had positive feedback. There is good visibility (no post or foliage obstructions) and people are seen following signs. Jeff pointed out it was a nice day so observation may be different than on a rainy day.
- Bill suggested an elevated crosswalk can be considered East of Garry by Fentaman to help slow traffic.
- The suggestion of only Right turns raised concerns of enforcement. It was noted that pavement signs can be confusing and it was suggested that SD38 repaint the arrows that direct flow of traffic off school grounds.
- It was also noted that the gate post is a foot and a half in from the curb, onto the driving path. It was suggested these be moved to offer more space for drivers to turn.
- Bylaw patrol will be increased to monitor traffic and parking. Residents on Regent have complained about parking.

Question from Cathy: Cathy lives on Garry and has concerns of some near misses she had witnessed of cars almost hitting children. Cathy is willing to speak with Bill to address concerns on pedestrian safety. Dionne suggests Cathy meet with Jeff to discuss further on this since he is the Admin on this. RDPA Traffic Safety is also aware of this and will follow up at their committee meetings.

- **Summer Learning:**

- A reminder was posted on the school newsletter on programs coming up for summer registration.
- McMath will not be host school this year, summer school will be at Steveston-London.

- **Talent Contest:** Lots of good talent with one student who did Kermit the Frog.

- Drama Production: Yesterday and tonight's showing was full and a great success.
- Gr. 10 Grad Numeracy testing taking place.
- Report cards and Parent Interview coming up. Details will be sent out soon.
- McMath Scholarship application due April 21.
- School is open to new scholarship donors. If you know anyone who may be interested in contributing to the McMath scholarship, the school has letters that can be sent out.
- DAG and Grad Boat Cruise coming up. Finalizing some of the cost. Email will go out to parents soon.
- Grad Convocation will be live streamed. It had good feedback as this allowed families who can not attend Chan Centre to watch from their laptop or devices.
- Gr. 11 - Grad Dinner and Dance venue will be changing next year to Tsawwassen Springs. The reason for the changes is that the Tsawwassen Spring Resort is lower in cost than the Fairmont.

Question from Dionne: Can staff please clarify Capstone presentation date? Currently the date is showing June 26-28. Is school not done by the 23rd? June 27 is also DAG.

5. RDPA Report – Update from Dionne for Andrew Scallion. Email richmondpasd38@gmail.com

- District Board meeting on April 26 on proposed Budget.
- Superintendent candidates shortlisted to 3 applicants.
- RDPA AGM is happening May 4 and they are looking for candidates for several positions opening up.

6. Treasurer Report (Winson)

- No change since Feb.
- Gaming Grant: reimbursed \$5765.69 to clubs. Remaining \$14,979.76.
- Some clubs have not submitted receipts. Jeff to follow up with sponsoring teachers to remind them to submit receipts.

7. PAC Sharing or New Business:

- Staff Appreciation Luncheon
 - Last year about \$1000 was spent on luncheon.
 - Jeff to come back with staff feedback on what they would like for this event.
 - There are concerns there may not be enough money, sponsorship and donation may be needed. If each student family can contribute \$5 each, this will help with the budget of feeding about 85 teachers.
 - Planning will need to start in early
- PAC Succession
 - Lingly W. and Ledi D. have stepped up to continue as co-Chairs of the Secretary for next year.
 - PAC Chair role still needs to be filled. Please email PAC with your interest. Samantha, while not able to step into the role due to work, can offer support to the new Chair.

- DAG (Dionne)
 - Meeting next week, Tuesday 6pm.
 - Gr. 12 parents are encouraged to step up to help.
 - Volunteers needed for late night positions. The roles are to help supervise and serve food. The event is Tuesday night to Wednesday morning. (11pm - 530am)
 - Gr. 11 parents are encouraged to help so that they can see what to expect when their child graduates.
- AGM
 - McMath AGM is on May 16, 2023. Details to be sent out in advance of the meeting.
 - A new PAC Chair is needed. Without a full executive panel Gaming Grant eligibility will be at risk. Anyone who is or who knows of someone who may be interested, please email PAC.
 - A survey will be going out soon to members to see if there are interest in having meetings resume in-person or continue via Zoom. Some have expressed interest in having hybrid meetings.
 - There are some concerns with technical challenges.

8. Meeting Adjournment: 8:09pm