

## PAC Meeting Minutes

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Attending:** Samantha H (Chair), Dionne M (Vice-Chair), Jon L (treasurer), Megan R, (co-secretary), Cinda W (co-secretary), Jane M (Principal), Adrienne G (Vice-Principle), Andrew S, Arlene M, Betty Y, Carol C, Chenya C, Heidy M, Ivy G, Karen FH, Ledi D, Michelle K, Peter M, Tammy O, Winston, L, Marnie F.

### **Meeting convened at 7:04 pm**

**Approval of Agenda:** Cheyna C, seconded Jon L

**Approval of Minutes:** Samantha H, seconded Dionne M

As per the previous meeting, we are looking for a treasurer “in waiting” to shadow our current treasurer and step into the role in 2 years time. Second call for a treasurer was made at the beginning of the meeting.

Also mentioned that our vice chair has 2 more years left at the school.

### **Admin report**

#### Grade 12 Information Night

- Very well attended, lots of parents, and good questions asked.
- At this point, all grad events are booked, but whether they get to run will be completely dependent on the situation when we get to that time. Most are set to run after January of next year, so fingers are crossed.
- Information was given about graduation requirements, as well as some basic information about applying to post secondary.
- Sheila Carter, the Career Information Advisor, is an excellent resource for post secondary options, as well as application information.
- For families that missed the meeting, the slides and recording are available on the school website: <https://mcmath.sd38.bc.ca/news/2021/09/29/grade-12-parent-evening-recap>
- Students had a similar meeting with admin and will be meeting with their counselors over the next couple of weeks to look at their transcripts, and ensure they have all the credits needed for graduation.

#### Clubs Day

- Covid friendly! Was spread out over 2 days in both the lower and upper rotunda areas.
- Popular as usual, good to see all the kids keen to join clubs.
- Full list of clubs is posted on the school website, and each day there is an announcement reminding students what clubs are running that day.

#### Fall Athletics

- Everyone is so happy to be able to get back to (almost) normal athletics.
- Currently boys' soccer, swimming, cross country, field hockey, junior and senior girls' volleyball and senior boys volleyball teams are up and running
- No masks are required for athletes on court, but officials must wear them. As well, there are currently no outside spectators allowed, only students from the host school. This may change as the fall progresses.

**Question:** What about girls' soccer? Is there no girls' soccer team?

**Answer:** That runs in the spring, along with gr 8 and 9 boys' volleyball.

## Interims

- The ministry has implemented a new reporting system, and all schools are switching over to it over next year. This is a transition year with *some* of the changes. For interims, the changes mean that there is no achievement mark, nor a work habits comment. The interim focuses on the level of understanding of learning the student is showing, and the comments will reflect that.

**Question:** If students are getting their interims on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, this is only about 7 weeks into the semester. If the interim has no marks, does this mean the student will not know their marks until the end of the semester?

**Answer:** No, the students will still receive a midterm report, that will include marks. The Midterms are published on November 18<sup>th</sup>, week 11 in the semester. There will be an achievement mark and a comment.

Semester 1 final marks are published February 4<sup>th</sup>. Between the midterm marks, and the end of semester, any student who is at risk will receive an at risk interim.

## Take Your Kids to Work Day

- Falls on November 3<sup>rd</sup> this year, and is typically the day that grade 9s spend with a parent or another adult, discovering what their job is like.
- Unfortunately will be virtual again this year. Students and their families will get links to different activities and sites that will give them some ideas of the different jobs that are out there.
- Students are encouraged to use their PLT time that morning to complete the activities. They will then go to their regular BI A and B classes after PLT.

## Grade 8 Day – Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

- As sleep-away camp is still not an option, the Grade 8s will spend their day onsite at McMath, participating in a number of fun activities.
- The day has been planned by the Senior Leadership group, and the Junior Leadership members will be on hand to support the fun.
- Gr. 8s will start the day in their regular BI. A classroom, where they will receive their t-shirts, then head off to the gym where they will be broken into teams for the rest of the events. Activities will take place in the gyms and the rotunda (and – fingers crossed – outside if the weather is nice). At the end of the day, they will write their “Dear Future Me” letters. These letters are collected and saved by the school, and then handed back to them in 5 years at Valedictory (graduation).
- Lunch will be provided (individual pizza slices, juice and chips) Lunch will be at a different time to the rest of the school, to allow them to all sit together in the rotunda.
- They will end their day back in their BI. D classroom.

## Grad Assessments

- All students will need to write Grad Literacy assessments (GLA) in both gr 10 and 12, and Grad Numeracy assessments (GNA) in gr 10. French Immersion students will also need to write a langue Francais literacy test in gr 12.
- Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> are the dates for the gr 10s GLA, and any gr 11 or 12 who have not yet written the gr 10 assessment. There will be two seatings each day.
- Assessments are approximately 2 hrs long, although students have a full 3 hours to complete them in. When they are finished, they will go back to their scheduled class.
- The grade 12s will write their GLA January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, and French Immersion students will write that assessment the morning of January 25<sup>th</sup> only.
- The gr 10 GNA will be held the week of Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, and there will be practice tests available the week before.

**Question:** For the French immersion students, might they end up writing both the French and English assessments on the same day?

**Answer:** No, they will be over 2 days.

**Question:** Do post secondary institutions see the assessment results?

**Answer:** Good question. The assessments are mandatory for graduation, but at this point they are not needed or used for post secondary applications. They do have access to them on the student's transcripts, but at this point they don't use them. Also, gr 12 students will see their marks from their gr 10 assessments when they go over their transcripts with the counselors. **Important news (after the meeting): UBC has stated a score of at least Proficient (3) will be required for entrance.**

### PLT

**Question:** Will there be a review of PLT before second semester? And will parents be asked for input.

**Answer:** Jane believes there is a plan by the District for students, staff, and families to provide feedback. But it is still TBA as to when that will happen. As time goes along, staff is noticing a shift as students are choosing different areas (not just the rotunda), or are being moved into classrooms that have space for students to work in.

Also, there is no PLT on October 29<sup>th</sup> as it will be used for Connections Classes.

**Question:** Is Connections the same as Career Education? If my student is already taking that course, would they need to take Connections (Career Life) as well?

**Answer:** Connections/ Career Life is different from Career education. This learning happens throughout the school year and involves all grades. Each Connections day will have an over-arching theme to the workshops and learning for the day – for instance the theme for this one is Inclusion and Diversity. One of the presentations on the day will be by a 3 Crows, a First Nations theater group, who will be presenting a performance on residential schools. For the grade 12s, part of the time will be spent on their Capstone projects for graduation. Each Connections day provides activities, learning and reflections on bigger topics, all tailored to the different grades. The next Connections day will be in April

**Question:** Going back to the Gr. 12 parent night, just wondering if anyone had come forward for DAG chair? (Dry After Grad).

**Answer:** Not yet, but last year's chairs are willing to mentor anyone who is interested in taking it on. There are a whole set of binders with vendor information etc. available to anyone who takes it on. Dionne mentioned that she also has a binder, and it would be helpful to get it going sooner rather than later – especially as she has already had some vendor contacting her to see if their services will be needed.

It was noted that it is a bit challenging to even know what will be able to run, and what will not at this point. Last year the planning for DAG started in January, and likely what will happen this year.

### RDPA

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> RDPA meeting will be a SOGI 101 information night.
- Out in Schools will be giving a presentation that will encompass the basics, including terminology, and answering questions from parents. Time is from 7 – 8:10pm, and the zoom link is available on Facebook and Twitter.
- The following week, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, will be PAC 101. This is a yearly event that provides workshops for PAC chairs, treasurers and fundraisers on the jobs and responsibilities for those positions.
- All information will be on social media channels, and will be sent to the PAC chairs individually.

### Wish List

- We received the allotment of funds from BC Gaming - \$24,020, which meant that with the money we carried over from last year, less 2 outstanding scholarships that have yet to be claimed, we had a starting balance of \$34,768.60 in the gaming account. We also currently have \$829 in the general account, with no upcoming withdrawals.
- This year we received 22 requests for funds, totalling \$46, 135.31. This is a similar number of requests to what we have had in the past (non covid) years. Typically, requests are dealt with in the following order: grad requests, which are standing, yearly requests, returning requests (clubs who have requested in previous years), and new requests (new clubs, on one's who may not have made a request for some time.) One top of this, we have our regular scholarships that are standing line items.
- PAC exec ran through the initial suggestions for filling requests, and then there was discussion about where we might want to change amounts.
- The biggest conversation was around funding requested for the Gr. 8 day. The school had asked for \$3400 for the shirts and lunches for all the gr 8s and the Leadership students. Initially the plan was to fund the Leadership students only.
  - The school had decided not to charge the students for the day – when they go to camp, families pay for that, but because we can't do camp the thought had been to provide a fun day free of charge. It was noted that in the past, families were charged \$10/student to offset costs. The school only started going to camp with the grade 8s in 2018.
  - When admin was asked what they needed as a minimum, the reply was they needed \$3400. If PAC couldn't fund it, the school would find the funds, but that might mean they would need to cut other things down the line.
  - Another comment made by a parent attending was that if we asked the gr 8s to pay towards the day, should clubs also be asking members to pay towards supplies etc.

**Question:** How many students are in each club?

**Answer:** It's not always clear cut – some clubs have lots of members (for instance the jewellery club has over 70 members, and the science and math contests typically have a large number participating.), others are smaller. It would be hard to fund based on numbers

- Suggestion was made to reduce funds from a club who had requested a large sum, as well as pull some money from the reserve for next year and add that to the gr 8 day fund.
- Conversation was also had about the amount requested for new uniforms for volleyball and basketball. The school requested \$8200.

**Question:** What happens if we don't fully fund the uniforms? Does that mean the kids will have to play in awful uniforms.

**Answer:** some are merely looking old, but some definitely need to be replaced as elastic is going in the shorts.

**Question:** The suggestion is to fund uniforms to the tune of \$3000, and that buys a lot of uniforms. What exactly are they hoping to purchase?

**Answer:** In one case, the Athletic dept. is hoping to purchase uniforms that have the numbers infused into the jerseys – much longer life span as numbers will not peel off. These are more expensive but pay for themselves in the long term.

**Question:** Do we need to confirm all this tonight?

**Answer:** Yes, or clubs can't move forward.

**Question:** Is this the only request time, or can requests come in at other times of the year?

**Answer:** Most come in now, but we may see a few more over the year.

**OUTCOME:**

- After a great deal of discussion, the recommendation was made to take \$500 each from our initial allotments to 3 clubs who had requested significant funds and put that towards the Gr. 8 day. A further \$1900 was pulled from the contingency fund, leaving just over \$2000 dollars to carry over for next year.
- Cheyna C and Winson L motioned and seconded that change.

**Question:** Any underspending will carry over to next year?

**Answer:** Yes.

- A further suggestion was made to look at the funds left over at the end of the year, to see if we could fund another outdoor table for the school (4 requested, funds for 2 allotted).

PAC donations

- A thank you to families that have donated funds to PAC this year – it is very appreciated. We only receive money from gaming, which has very strict rules around how it can be spent. Anything else is donations. If anyone is able to donate, it is greatly appreciated, and gives us the ability to support more things in the school.
- Suggestion was made that a specific amount for a donation be suggested, as this gives people a concrete idea of what might be useful. It was noted that if every family donated \$5, it would equal a fairly substantial sum. There will be a message on the WAAG, asking families to donate if/what they can.

**Question:** Can donations over \$20 get a tax receipt.

**Answer:** It's a long and painful process! Only PACs that are registered charities can issue a receipt (and currently only 2 PACs in the district are – that is another long and painful process). Otherwise it must go through the district, which can take a long time, and means the funds get deposited with the school, rather than the PAC.

- Jane noted that high schools typically don't fundraise, but maybe there might be an interest in doing some – for instance a Poinsettia fundraiser.
- Some conversation about fundraising – the end result is typically the school/PAC doesn't see a great return for the effort. In the long run, asking for a small donation from those who can donate might still see a decent return. And the funds are all ours. Suggestion that we try rewording the existing request and see what happens.

A second call for co-treasurer was made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm. Next meeting November 16<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom.