

## PAC meeting – May 25, 2021

Attending: Samantha H, Jon L, Cinda W, Dionne M, Silvia B, Winson L, Arlene M, Cheyna C, Tammy O, Carol C, Karen F-H, Ivy G, Ledi D, Andrew S, Kristy M, Mia M, Megan R, Peter M, Larissa R, Helmut D, Heidi, M, Karen L, and Diane D.

Staff: Jane M, Tinh N, Andrea P, and Akiko K.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Dionne M.

Seconded: Cinda W.

**Adoption of Minutes:** Jon L

Seconded: Dionne M.

As this meeting was the AGM, a first call for nominations for the executive positions was called: no nominations came forward.

### **Admin Report**

- Mural update: the mural is very close to finished, the artist was able to incorporate many of the suggestions from the students and greater school body, including images that speak to the Japanese heritage in the area, wildlife (in the form of a heron), the Pride flag, heritage buildings, and more.
- A particularly special part is the clouds in the sky that are First Nations images, created and painted by a First Nations student in the school. In fact, 3 students were very active in helping create the mural.
- Jane was around on the weekend and mentioned seeing many local neighbours who stopped by to look at it – the response was overwhelmingly positive. Final steps include clear coating the piece, to keep it safe from the elements.

### **Valedictory**

- Similar to last year, the celebration must follow the public health orders in place and will take place at the school. The ceremony/filming will occur in the rotunda, and as each grad enters the space, their family will be invited inside to witness them cross the stage. They will cross a second time and toss their cap, and then the family and grad will move to the drama room for a formal photo with Artona. A second photo opportunity will happen out front of the school immediately after, and grads will be given a special graduation “swag” bag, created by the Dry After Grad committee.
- The video will premier on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, and the hope is families will be able to gather to watch it together, as well as send the link to wider family.

### **2021/2022 Students and Staff**

- The projected student numbers – approximately 1210 – are very similar to typical years. However, there has been a slight drop in staffing numbers from this year to next. This is due in part to extra staffing that was needed to support the quarter system.
- Transition meetings with the feeder schools have taken place, and staff are looking forward to welcoming the new grade 8s in September. The grade 7 orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, and each gr 7 will get a welcome bag of goodies as part of the orientation.

### **2021/2022 Schedule**

Next year, all Richmond secondary schools will run on the semester system – 4 classes each semester. McMath has labeled classes in semester 1 A, B, C, and D. In semester 2: E, F, G, and H. Its important to note that while there is no finalized timetable at this time, the semester system provides a much better platform for balancing classes (academic vs electives) than the quarter system could. Blocks will remain fixed, rather than rotate through the week.

Each school had the option of choosing between 3 models, and McMath (and 7 other schools) chose to turn to a flexible model that includes time to Personal Learning Time (PLT) and 1 extended block for each class, each week. For example, semester 1 would look like the following:

- **Monday, Tuesday, and Friday** will be A, B, C, D with appropriate breaks for recess and lunch.
- **Wednesday and Thursday** will each start with PLT, followed by A and B on Wednesday, and C and D on Thursday, also with a recess and lunch break.
- The longer classes will run 115 minutes, while Mon/Tues/Fri classes will be the more typical 80 minutes.

Teachers feel that the longer classes this year showed some definite benefits when it came to being able to spend more time on specific projects, on collaborating or exploring ideas in depth, and having 1 class a week with that option would enhance learning opportunities.

- Personal Learning Time will also be broken into 2 equal blocks each day. This will allow teachers time to be in their classes to support student learning, and also have the required prep time. PLT is not a completely new concept, other schools in the district have had a version of flex time.
- It is still a work in progress as to how it will exactly look, however it is likely that the first week or two of classes will not include PLT (more likely to be homeroom, as is typical at the start of the year). After that, it is likely to be quite structured, particularly for the junior grades, for the first several weeks. The goal is for the time to be used in many different ways: students may work on classwork, collaborate on projects, take on focused learning outside of their existing classes, and the school is looking at potentially having options that would provide time for mental and physical health, such as yoga or intermural games.

**Question:** Would students be required to log their work during PLT?

**Answer:** Still working on what this will look like. As said, the first little while is going to be more structured, especially for juniors, however one of the goals is also to provide the opportunity to learn to balance their school/life load. This may look like some students sleeping in and coming in late because they had been up late the night before working on a project or working ahead on the weekend. Particularly for senior students, who will soon be faced with navigating that sort of balance, this gives an opportunity to experiment while still in a more supportive environment. Even for younger students, this is an important life skill.

**Question:** Is lunch starting at 12:50 pm on Mon/Tues/Fri?

**Answer:** Yes, it will be earlier on PLT days, however it's important to note that in a "normal" year, lunch didn't start until close to 12:40 pm.

**Question:** If students are vaccinated, will they need to wear face masks in the fall?

**Answer:** That is decided by the PHO (public health office). Based on information on May 25<sup>th</sup>, it looks hopeful that masks will be a choice come September, but we will know more in September.

## **Staff Guests**

### **Andrea Phillpots – Humanities teacher, and Social Studies Ed Fac.**

Provided an update on the wonderful outdoor classroom/learning space that is in progress at the school.

- She is applying for a district grant of \$30,000 to expand the space. While currently the largest work has gone into the garden beds, including an Indigenous garden with local plants, and plants traditionally used by First Nations, the plan for this year is to add a shed that will incorporate white boards on the doors, metal chairs and tables, and 2 large picnic tables under a pergola. These new spaces to be used by classes and students wishing to work outside.
- Multiple studies have shown that outdoor education benefits multiple learning styles, and Andrea is a passionate proponent.
- Classes have been spending more time outside with covid, and both students and staff have voiced how much they have enjoyed that option.
- Along with Akiko Kato and Kerry Zaine, Andrea is working with students and other staff to continue expanding the space, while encouraging input from the school family as a whole.

### **Akiko Kato – Home Economics teacher**

Gave a short presentation of the McMath Cares club

- The club launched just before spring break and came about because of conversations with some senior foods students. Covid has created an even more difficult situation for vulnerable families, and food security has been threatened for many. The students wanted to find a way to support students in McMath, who live with this reality.
- The club supports 2 nutritious breakfasts a month, and one food hamper a month, that goes to the student's family. Due to covid protocols, students cannot cook the breakfast themselves, so the cafeteria has taken on that job, and the club members create cards to be given out with each meal – these have messages of support and friendship, as well as nutritional facts.
- The hamper includes all the ingredients for a simple, nutritious meal. The students have been filming videos showing how to prepare the meal, and these have been uploaded to a private YouTube channel. The recipe is also included in the hamper. The goal is to not only provide food, but also to help the receiving students learn simple, nutritious cooking skills.
- The students and families receiving the meals are completely anonymous.
- They hope to expand the program next year, as well as to have the club members be able to cook/prepare the breakfasts.

**Question:** How are the groceries being funded?

**Answer:** Currently the school and Feed-U-Cate, a district program, are funding the club. Akiko is hoping for PAC funds next year. Akiko is also the one who does all the shopping for the hamper food.

**Question:** How are the families who receive the meals/hampers approached?

**Answer:** The counsellors are aware of families in need, and pass on the number of meals or hampers needed. Again, the recipients remain anonymous to all but the counsellors.

The suggestion was made that perhaps the links to the YouTube videos could be shared via the WAAG, and Akiko mentioned that each video is tweeted out by the school.

### **RDPA report – Andrew Scallion**

- Nothing particularly new since last month.

- District has a \$7.2 million short fall, and as school districts are not allowed to legally run a deficit, this will need to be made up.
- City staff was set to bring a final report to the School Board meeting on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, at which point the board would vote.
- Looking at cuts across the board – teachers, support staff, and admin.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- No gaming funds were dispersed over the last month, so financials remain the same in the gaming account. 5 club are still intending to use part or all their allotments before the end of June.
- As of just before the meeting, \$355 had been received in donations, which are ear-marked for the staff appreciation celebration. We weren't able to do anything last year and have faced the same sort of challenges this year, however the appreciation committee has a great (but still secret!) plan. Stay tuned!
- There has been a change in regulations around scholarship dispersal. BCLC/Gaming and BCCPAC collaborated to require that PACs now must write the cheque directly to students (in the past it could run through the school) and only after confirming enrollment in post secondary.
- Projected carry over of funds at year end is \$10, 690.

**Question:** Can people still donate to the staff appreciation event?

**Answer:** Yes, it is not too late. People can donate by e-transfer to the PAC gmail: [mcmathpac@gmail.com](mailto:mcmathpac@gmail.com)

### **Second Call for Nominations for Executive Positions**

**Chair:** Samantha Harrison was nominated and accepted the nomination.

**Co-Chair:** Dionne McFie was nominated and accepted the nomination.

**Secretary/Co Secretary:** Cinda Wootton and Megan Riter were nominated, both accepted the nomination.

**Treasurer:** Jon Lee was nominated and accepted the nomination.

**\*\*Starting next year, PAC would like to have someone step forward to shadow Jon and learn the position of treasurer.** He has 2 more years left at the school, and it is much easier if someone spends a year or two learning the ins and outs of the position. It's important to realize that without a full executive, we are not able to apply for the gaming grants we use every year for club and school purchases. Megan has one year left at the school, and Dionne has 2. Anyone who might be interested in shadowing any of the positions is encouraged to contact the PAC exec through the gmail account.

**Question:** Zoom attendance at the monthly meetings has been higher than in person. Might we want to continue with that in the fall?

**Answer:** It is definitely something to consider. Perhaps looking at a hybrid model where those who can/wish to would come to the school, and we could run the meeting over Zoom as well.

**\*\* The district will not be renewing Zoom licenses as of the end of June, they are moving to MS Teams, which may be problematic.**

- It was noted that a year's subscription to Zoom is just under \$200.
- It's possible that the RDPA could fund 3 "floating" licenses that could be shared among PACs as needed. Rob Laing – executive director of learning and business technologies for the district – will be approached about the potential needs of enhanced security etc.

Samantha closed out the meeting by noting this is the last for this school year. She thanked everyone for their support in this most unusual time, especially to Jane for all her clear and open conversations about all the unique scenarios the pandemic has created.

Jane responded by thanking the PAC and parents – she feels we have a vibrant, healthy, diverse PAC, and appreciates the questions we ask, as it helps the school as they navigate changes and challenges.

Stay tuned for pictures of the Staff Appreciation celebration

The date for the first PAC meeting of the 2021/2022 school year is September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm