

McMath PAC Minutes September 21, 2021 7:00 PM

Members in Attendance: Samantha H (Chair), Dionne M (Vice-Chair), Jon L (treasurer), Megan R, (co-secretary), Cinda W (co-secretary), Jane M (Principal), Tinh N (Vice-Principle), Arlene M, Carol C, Chenya C, Elisa M, Heidi M, Ivy G, Jasmin M, Karen L, Larissa L, Leanne B, Ledi D, Lingly W, Michelle K, Myra, Nadine S, Sue-Ann R, Tanya W, Winston, L

Adoption of the Agenda: Sam, Jon

Adoption of May 2021s Minutes: Jon, Cinda

We have a Zoom license through the school district but may be converting these meeting to MS teams in the future.

Introduction to PAC executive for 2021/2022

Samantha Harrison Co Chair along with Dionne McFie, Jon Lee, Treasurer, Co-Secretaries Meg Riter and Cinda Wootton

We are looking for a Co-Treasurer to work along side Jon in anticipation of that position becoming vacant in the future. A great opportunity to learn exactly what is involved in the role. A brief description: Keep an eye on the funds coming in, requests for funds, write the cheque and have one of the co-signers sign, keep an eye on the bank account to make sure everything reconciles, co-ordinate with the business secretary at the school for the clubs wish list, document brief monthly and an annual report on the finances.

Feel free to put your name forward at any time during the year. No nominations on first call.

Principal's Report

Welcome everyone. We've had a really good start up. We are making sure the safety of our students and staff are our top priority. Daily health check is a little different from before, things we watch out for are listed on the document sent. We are making sure students and staff don't come into building if they are sick. We ask staff and students attend to this health check every day.

- Grade Assemblies : To keep students a bit distanced from one another we did 5 separate grade assemblies using both sides of bleachers in the gym.
- Some students are at our school for the first time, there are students who may have been transitional learners last year. We are being very sensitive to the different needs of our learners. Our counsellors have been visible. We have been paying attention to social and emotional well-being and we focused on that last week in one of our connection classes.
- We don't have 2 metre / 6 feet distance anymore but we encourage students not to be too close together.

- We have opened up some classes at lunchtimes to spread students out.
- Lunch is at 12:50, later than in the past due to the new bell schedule adopted by the schools so we encourage students to bring a nutrition snack to eat at break time.
- Challenges with boys bathrooms due to a Tik Tok trend which was encouraging people to steal stuff from school bathrooms. Sort lived but very annoying. Replaced soap and paper towel dispensers. We would like to assure you that our student community as a whole is very responsible and respectful and talk about the P.R.I.D.E matrix often. This can be found inside student agenda, on the calendar and under the information tab on the McMath website. We reinforce the P.R.I.D.E language with students all the time. We have identified some of the student vandals and their parents have been contacted. This Tik Tok issue is an opportunity to talk to kids again about social media, just getting caught up in it, and how destructive it could be.
- We have two new staff members this year, both McMath graduates:
 - Katrina Tan is teaching math during Ms Awadalla's maternity leave, then she has three of her own blocks in semester 2.
 - Phillip Lam, temporarily here for the year, is counsellor for Wendy Li's maternity leave.
- Stacy Green is the new food service provider. She has previously worked at other secondary schools. Students have opportunity to purchase both at break and at lunch. We do encourage kids to bring their lunch most of the time so they don't spend too much of their lunch in a line-up. Students can leave property at lunch as long as they get back in time.
- Grade 8 assembly had 130 people in attendance. Our main message is "With greater freedom in high school comes greater responsibility": We know they are going to be good citizens in the neighborhood, McMath's reputation is important to us. Students need to manage materials, homework and due dates. We encourage the use of the student agenda.
- All 10 of high schools in Richmond are on the semester system, four blocks at a time. They are labeled ABCD and go through until the end of January then there are a different four from February to the end of June.

BELL SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Friday		Wednesday, Thursday	
8:30 – 9:50	BLOCK A	8:30 – 9:20	PLT 1
9:55 – 11:15	BLOCK B	9:25 – 10:15	PLT 2
11:15 – 11:30	BREAK	10:20 – 12:15	BLOCK A/C
11:30 – 12:50	BLOCK C	12:15 – 1:05	LUNCH
12:50 – 1:40	LUNCH	1:05 – 3:00	BLOCK B/D
1:40 – 3:00	BLOCK D		

4) Personal Learning Time (PLT): ownership / time management / choice. Easing in.
 Grades 11/12 – if students would like to see a teacher, work with peers, or work independently.
 Grades 8-10 – encourage all students to come in to connect with teachers, do schoolwork, get help with organization, Learning Strategies teachers are available as well.

- Wed & Thursday lunch is at 12:15
- The advantage to longer classes is for kids to delve deeper into things. For a material based class, such as technology, art or a science class there is more time to get the materials set up and time to work before they have to pack up. In a class without materials, teachers will

sometimes have a variety of activities to keep the students engaged. We do encourage teachers to take the kids outside to get some air to break up the long stretch.

- PLT - Personal Learning Time

Wed & Thurs there are two sessions of PLT in the morning before classes begin.

We want students to be able to determine for themselves where they need to focus their energy, to manage their activities, have ownership of their learning and have some choice.

- Get help from teachers or peers
 - Homework / assignments / projects / studying
 - Manage personal wellness
 - Prepare for upcoming tests / quizzes
 - Request to catch up on missed tests / quizzes / assignments
 - Engaged reading / journaling / reflecting
 - Organize notes / binder
 - Self-directed learning
- Students are to attend each session with one of their teachers. They can also choose to attend their Physical Education class. They can attend the same class the next day if that is where they need more support. They don't have to attend all four of their different classes for PLT.
 - Grade 11 and 12: For them to determine if they come in and work or not. Whether it would be a good use of their time. They could work with a teacher, peers or independently. Grade 11s and 12s are busy people, they might often be studying into the evening, have jobs and sports, so if they are on top of things they can have a sleep in those days and stay home.
 - Grades 8/9/10 need to be here, start with structure for them to develop skills in how to manage time and PLT.
 - Learning strategies teachers, resource teachers are all available. On the semester system, most students only receive learning strategies block in one semester so in the semester they don't have it, they can still come in for strategies during PLT.
 - Teacher Preparation - Of the two sessions during a PLT morning, one will be the teacher's prep time, the other the teacher will be available to work with students.
 - If there is no teacher available, the student can go to the library and the rotunda to do independent study. If there are around 50 or more students in the rotunda and a teacher is undersubscribed, students will be invited to move to that classroom to spread out from the rotunda. This teacher can help with organization but not necessarily the specific topic. This is also a good opportunity to work with peers for a group project, as after school may be tricky due to commitments (sports) or restrictions for people entering a family home.
 - The teacher schedule is on the website. Students sign up on-line. Getting students to choose and manage their time is very worthwhile.
 - Some teachers have ideas about subjects they would like to offer, such as a running club which is great for physical activity and mental wellness when a little bit stressed or anxious. One of the PE teachers is looking at doing a yoga session, another teacher gardening... Other teachers will look at stress reduction strategies, the list is growing.
 - Where can parents access the grid? It is on the McMath website or here <https://mcmath.sd38.bc.ca/news/2021/09/20/plt-signup-instructions>

Question & Answer

Question: Can a student book into the library if they want to work quietly on a project such as Capstone?

Answer: The initial plan was to reserve the library for senior students only and we would like to offer priority to our seniors in the future.

Q: If they know another teacher from the past can they sign onto their block or do they need to stick to their assigned teacher.

A: Going forward, any teacher they like. Could be someone they connected really well with or a teacher that instructs in an area of the student's passion. Priority will go to the students in that teacher's class if the sign-up overloads. We need to work on the logistics for this situation.

Q: Although this is great in terms of building their independence to get them ready for their college years, how are 11s and 12s meeting instructional time, based on what the ministry states they need per year, if they are not in the building?

A: We know a lot of them are doing school work after hours, it is not direct instructional time from a teacher and neither is PLT.

PLT time is not new material from teachers, it is subject help and passion projects.

If all students were in attendance during both PLT times, with only half of the teachers available, there would not enough teachers due to prep time those days as well.

We want the 8, 9 and 10s to come in for PLT but the seniors need to determine if they need help. There is a certainly a place for them, we are not discouraging coming in but it is their decision.

Q: How will they be taking attendance for PLT? How will this be taken in the library or rotunda?

A: We are taking attendance largely to gather data so see if things are working the way we would like them to. Attendance in the library and rotunda will be taken the same way as in each class: through sign-up. This generates a list, see who shows up, additions will be added and for those who have not shown up we will put an X beside them. Will not be reporting to parents if they do not show up, not a possibility in My Ed.

Q: Seniors - if the student is not attending PLT, yet they may be struggling a little bit in the class, would the teacher give some feedback to the parent? The student may say: "I've got this, I'm fine" and choose to sleep in. Traditionally the parents don't know until the interim report is published.

A: We always encourage the teachers to be in communication with parents and guardians because the partnership helps kids be as successful as possible. So if somebody is struggling in the class, I think the teacher would contact you to say they it would be helpful for the student to come join PLT for help and reinforcement of material already covered in class.

Q: What has changed since we moved off linear system, where teachers had a block for prep time and now those blocks are having to be amalgamated into PLT time?

A: On the linear system, teachers would have 1 prep block out of 8 and that prep would be available throughout the entire year.

On the semester model teachers still have 1 prep block out of 8 blocks but it would be only in one semester. To allow teachers to have prep in the other semester we use PLT.

In the semester where the teacher has an allotted prep block, they are only getting half of it. The other half of that prep block (8th block), we will be redeploying the teacher to help

elsewhere half of that time. Possibly in a science or math class or in learning strategies, for example.

Q: If a student is not at school during a PLT block, parents do not need to inform the school?

A: We do want 8, 9, & 10s in attendance. You do not need to inform school if child not coming in during PLT time but you do need to if they do not attend blocks A, B, C or D.

Q: If a grade 8 has no homework in any subjects, it will be difficult for them to keep themselves profitably occupied for 2 hours without directions. If they go to their teacher's PLT block, what is the expectation that they do during that time if they have no homework? I think realistically they can only read a novel for so long. Four hours is a long time to read over two days.

A: We encourage students to be organized, think ahead to what questions they may have or explore some enrichment activities... For example, there are a lot of stretches available for math activities. But if you feel your child is 100% up to date, we will not be chasing them down. There may be other sessions of interest offered that your child would want to come in for.

Q: Will there be a grade 8 in-school retreat?

A: Yes, we hope to do something.

Q: When are clubs advertised?

A: Clubs Day Oct 6th & 7th, live and in person, over 2 days to spread students out in rotunda area. A list of clubs will be posted on the website.

- ***Connection classes:*** These occur throughout the year and is how our staff will deliver the career education curriculum to students in grades 8-12. Traditionally, in the past it has been embedded in coursework but has truly not had enough attention. There will be 7 Connections Classes throughout the year. (in student's homeroom) and 2 conference days. The first one was on Wednesday during PLT. Students filled in a grid with their classes and indicated what they were working on in those classes and how they can improve. Admin stayed up late on Wednesday, read all of those forms and gave them back to students Thursday morning. Some students needed to flush out their ideas a little bit more and we wanted to have that document help them determine what they are going to do during their personal learning time, what needed attention. The second Connection class on the Thursday was part of career education core competencies material. Lessons were prepared around goal setting and community building, how do you connect with other people?
- Senior students grades 11 & 12 are required to be there for those connection classes, they know that. They are on the calendar.
- There will also be a couple of other days instead of PLT student will be doing things like program planning for next courses next year, rather than take time away from the instructional hours. We will let students know ahead of time when they need to be here.
- ***Career Education Program Conference Days:*** Alternate education day where there are often things of high interest for students to attend. For the first session we have booked the Three Crows Production Company (Indigenous educational storytellers). They will do storytelling around residential schools for 8s and 9s. Some 10, 11 and 12s have seen this production during humanities last year so they will have something different on the subject of diversity and inclusion. There will be one each semester. Do not book dentist appointments on these days: Nov 30 and another one in April TBA.

- Meet the teacher. Most teachers will send a course outline and some other info about the course they teach on Sept 23rd. A few may host a MS Teams/Zoom.
- Grade 12s parent meeting as a MS teams webinar. A parent question: How do parents find out about post secondary due dates and scholarship information. Sheila Carter, our Career information Advisor, has already emailed all of the students an entire year at a glance of post secondaries due dates and open houses — all deadlines can be shared with parents as well and will be discussed during the grade 12 parent meeting.
- Communication: School website is always good place to look for info, sign up to WAAG (Week At A Glance) and you will get that in your email inbox, but if you don't it is on the website.
- Daily announcements are posted on website eg. sport try-out times
- You can email the school or telephone if there are specific things going on, or questions you have. Can book a face to face appointment if really necessary.

RDPA Report

- Meetings usually first Tuesday of the month, everyone welcome to attend. Info on website: <http://dpac.sd38.bc.ca>
- richmonddpasd38@gmail.com, for new parents not on mailing list, if you write you will receive link to join.

Treasurer's Report

- There are 2 accounts for PAC:
 1. General spending: this goes toward staff appreciation lunches, seminars, parent Ed... Carry-over from last year was \$630.
 2. Gaming account: The PAC receives funding (in the past \$20-24 per student enrolled) through the government through gaming and this money supports Clubs, Dry Grad, PAC scholarships and other items not for in-class instruction. Carry over \$10 748 from last year. Usually we try spend it in the year granted but it was not all requested last year. In case the gaming grant was reduced this year, due to casinos not fully operating, we wanted to be able to fulfill all club requests. Usually the funding arrives the first week of October so next meeting we will be able to report the amount.
- Your PAC's primary objective is to support the success of your students. To meet this goal, the PAC is requesting your help by the way of a one time annual donation in lieu of PAC fundraisers. Donations make up a significant percentage of PAC funds providing diversification of learning opportunities and experiences which enhance course content. Requests by staff, students and parents for financial support for classroom consumables, new equipment, technological goods, parent education sessions and staff appreciation luncheons far exceed our present funding ability. Unlike most fundraisers, every dollar you donate goes directly to support mcmath students! The McMath school community values the financial help you have provided in previous years and embraces your ongoing support once again this year. Any donation, large or small, is welcome and greatly appreciated! Imagine if every family donated even just \$1, we would be in good standing! We accept e-transfers to mcmathpac@gmail.com or cheques or cash to the school office.

Next PAC meeting: October 19th, 7pm
 Meeting adjourned : 8:22 pm