

McMath PAC meeting – April 16th 2019

Secretary: Samantha Harrison in for Leanna Neuman

Attendance:

Cinda Wootton (Chair), Samantha Harrison (Vice-Chair), Jon Lee (Treasurer), Jane McFadyen (Principal), Carol Clark, Ivy Geng, Tania MacIntyre, Dionne McFie, Kristy McLeod, Crystal Wang

Adoption of the Agenda: Samantha Harrison & Jon Lee

Adoption of the minutes from March: Samantha & Jon

Principal's report – Jane McFadyen:

- Math contests – Feb. 26th; good turnout. PAC funds the math contest (extra-curricular), students not charged. Thank you to the PAC. Math 8/9 accelerated had almost 100 student joined the contest. Interest in Math is strong at McMath.
- We won our first Provincial championship for Gr. 9 girls basketball on March 2nd & brought home a banner! It will be hung in the North gym.
- Multicultural club – we had a Chinese New Year event at the school. The club is now exploring Belgium and we will continue to explore other cultures. We want to recognize the diversity in our school and celebrate the different cultures and try to recognize and celebrate the individual holidays, such as “Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Vaisakhi, Happy Kwanza” etc.
- Discussed school trips and field trips
- Women in Leadership – Ms. Goulas & Ms. Simonson took 30 leadership students to see Malala Yousafzai (advocate for female in education in Pakistan)
- Grad skate – 120 Gr. 12 students went to the Oval for the annual Grad skate. Thank you Mlle. Marin, Ms. Orr, Mr. Track and Mrs. McFadyen for accompanying the students.
- Small number of Gr. 8's this year (230), next year 285 due to increase in French Immersion. 78 this year in FI, normally 112 or so. Next year 126 will be French Immersion. Could be due to another FI class in a feeder elementary school.
- All students have selected their courses for next year. New courses have been added including Philosophy, Genocide Studies and Outdoor Education with Ms. Phillipotts. Most students are no longer taking Social Studies 11. Not enough students for Basketball or Active Living. Courses and timetables are built based on what students have asked for.
- We will need an alternate venue for Gr. 8 Camp next year due to the large number of Gr. 8 students. We might split into two dates between English and a French Immersion camp.
- Draft long-range facilities plan – school district website, came out March 15th. Talks about the state of our current buildings. Please review the link. Parents feedback had been requested; the surveys have closed however information and the Draft LRF are available on the Let's Talk website: <https://www.letstalksd38.ca/projects/long-range-facilities-plan-public-consultation>
- McMath will again have more students that lockers for 2019/20. Priority goes to Grade 8, then Grade 12, with the remainder allocated across the grades. If a student do not require a locker it will be reassigned.

Guest Speaker: Sandra Nixon, School Board Trustee, SD 38:

- Emphasis on social responsibility and inter-cultural understanding
- Trustees are assigned to liaison schools
- Role is a two-way connections: connect the parents to the District and to get to know the school & help the board feel connected
- Not many Trustees have children who are currently students (except for Sandra)
- We do workshops on programs in the District, new curriculum, talking about community issues, seismic issues, long-range facilities plan. Need parent feedback
- Open houses in May & June about the LRFP
- Working on budget for next year; focusing on emergency preparedness and having the budget for this; proposals for more funding for updating classrooms (furniture, etc)
- Assessment & reporting is changing for Gr. 10 – 12; will be supporting teachers with these changes.
- Feedback can happen through the District website, RDPA, or can email the Trustees directly.
- Board meetings are once a month; they take presentations from parents and there are also question periods after the Board meetings.
- Attach the link for the LRFP in the meeting minutes (Let's Talk website)

PAC Business – student networking opportunity; Treasurer's report; Committee updates:

- Coffee Chat Network – Toronto University students that are finishing up their degrees. Help graduating students or parents (from high school) to connect with different universities across BC. Aimed towards Gr. 11 & 12 students and their parents. Fill out a form for what type of advice you're looking for (courses, career path) and then they will set you up with someone for the topic you want to address. When booking a call remember they are using Eastern time! There is also a Speakers Series for the past 18 months. Every week in Oct & Nov there are online webinars on specific questions. We will take this to the school counsellors. Website for more info is Coffeachatnetwork.ca
- Treasurers Report – General account; we've had some donations over the past two months. The PAC have completed the second round of wish list reimbursements. Science Club has requested additional wish list funds. Last year they asked for a DNA & RNA Gel Kit; this was approved but they didn't spend the funds as the supplier was on back-order. We confirmed that the funds weren't spent so we are request supporting this funding. \$834. Motion to approve: All approved. We will do a final round of wish list reimbursements by mid-May. We have reserved \$10k for the Scoreboard and this can be carried forward for next year.
- Committee updates – Dry Grad still needs volunteers. On the website to sign up. 243 grads and there are only 129 who have paid. 30-second video contest → making a video on the hazards of drunk driving or drug abuse. Due Fri. May 3rd at noon to the Richmond Sentinel. Winner will get their picture in the Sentinel. Winner will get funds which will go towards the student's school's Dry After Grad (approx. \$250).
- Staff Appreciation Lunch – June 6th .

RDPA report:

- April 23rd is the cutoff for budget feedback. BC PAC Conference May 3rd to 5th. Pacific Gateway Hotel. \$200 for newbie rate. There will be a survey coming out on the E-Portfolios – more to come. Next RDPA meeting on May 7th; AGM. McMath PAC rep needed this night. 7:00 – 8:30. Jon Lee said he will attend. McMath gets one vote at the AGM.

Questions & Sharing:

- Next month's PAC meeting for McMath is the AGM on May 28th. PAC Executive step down and these positions become vacant for next year. The positions need to be filled. No quorum needed but attending parents need to agree. We need a PAC executive to get the government grant.

Meeting Adjournment Time: 9:00 p.m.