

## PAC Meeting, February 15, 2022

In attendance: Samantha H. (Chair), Dionne M. (Vice Chair), Jon L. (Treasurer), Meg R.(co-Secretary), Nadine S., Karen F.H., Cheyna C., Arlene M., Silvia B., Theresa., Mitchell S., Sue-Anne R., Peter., Ivy G., Luke, Helmut M.,

Admin: Adrienne Goulas (VP)

Meeting opened at 7:01pm

**Adoption of Agenda:** Dionne M., Jon L.

**Adoption of Minutes:** Ivy G., Samantha H.

### **Admin Report**

Adrienne Goulas gave the admin report for this month

### Program Planning

- Well underway. On Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> counsellors spent the day talking to the gr 8 – 11 about options for next year. These included core courses plus electives. At the same time, Admin met with the gr 12s to go over Core Competencies needed for graduation. That evening, admin and counsellors delivered a virtual parent meeting for families, essentially providing the same information to parents as to what courses are core, what opportunities there are for electives.
- On Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, there was a virtual gr 7 parent meeting. There are an expected 225 new gr 8s next year. Slightly smaller than the graduating class this year (275 grads), which means slightly smaller overall numbers for next year's student body. This year's graduating class is currently the largest in the school.

### Graduation/Grade 12s

- Feb 10<sup>th</sup> there was the first Dry After Grad meeting (also virtual). About 70 parents met with Jane and the co chairs from last year's DAG, Lisa Banks and Katharine Dawson. Things are looking more hopeful that this year's grads will actually be able to have a traditional valedictory and dinner dance/DAG. Time will tell, but tentative planning for DAG is underway. (NOTE: the meeting was recorded and should be up on the school website soon for families that missed it.)
- Grad Skate went ahead on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 120 gr 12s went to the Oval and either skated (60 on 2 rinks) or played a variety of games on two courts. It was a lot of fun, and everyone who had wanted to go, was able to be there.
- Winter Formal, originally scheduled for January, has been rescheduled for Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Riverside Grand Ballroom. At this point, dancing (as long as masks are worn) has a green light. There will be another PHO presser before the event, and we will wait and see if there are any other changes at that point.

### Sports

- Basketball has been on everyone's mind! 5 of McMath's 8 basketball teams won district championships, the gr 8 girls came in 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the gr 9 boys lost to Semiamhoo the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Since the parent meeting, the Senior Girls won the South Fraser Championships and will be heading to the Provincials the first week of March.

- Good news re spectators – as of Sat. Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, spectators will be allowed back in at a 50% capacity.

### Traffic

- Continues to be a challenge – some mornings there are so many cars lined up to drop off students, staff and TTOCs aren't able to make it into the staff parking lot before classes start. And it is not uncommon for cars still to be lined up at 8:40am.
- Students are encouraged to walk or bike to school as much as possible. There are many bike lock up areas for those who choose to ride, and walking or riding is good for everyone's well-being. If you must drive your child(ren) to school, perhaps they could be dropped off a block or so away, and walk in. This would help ease congestion in the driveway and drop off circle.

### Health and Safety

- Currently the staggered start times for morning classes, and the afternoon staggered end times are continuing. Gr 10 – 12 are welcomed into the school by 8:25am, and classes start at 8:30. Gr 8/9 enter the school at 8:35am, for an 8:40am start. At the end of the day, 8/9s leave at 2:50, 10 – 12 at 3pm. Note, staggered start is only on non PLT days – Mon/Tues/Fri.

**\*\*\*\* NOTE: since the parent meeting, this information has changed. As of TUESDAY, FEB 22<sup>ND</sup>, all students will once again begin classes at 8:30, and finish at 3pm.\*\*\*\***

### Parent questionnaire

- The district has advised that they will be sending out questionnaires to parents, looking for feedback and thoughts about PLT and pros and cons of linear vs semester vs quarter system. At this point, we are still unsure what next year will look like with regards to how classes are delivered (i.e., linear vs semester) in the district, the office of the Superintendent is looking for feedback from all stakeholders (students, staff, and families) to take into consideration.

**Q: Are students checked in for PLT? Can students drop into a classroom without signing up first?**

**A: Drop ins are welcomed. There is no attendance for PLT, but students need to pre-book where they want to be, as classroom space is capped at 15.**

**Q: What is the limit for the library and rotunda?**

**A: There are very few students in the rotunda these days – it was becoming a hang out/gaming space as opposed to a workspace, so students have been redirected to classrooms. The library space is capped at 50.**

### Other

- 4 new outdoor tables were installed at the school on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. These were purchased thanks to grant funding, applied for by Andrea Philpotts. They will be used for lunch time, but also as outdoor classroom settings. One of the positive outcomes of the pandemic has been the shift to taking classes outdoors when possible. There have been definite benefits noted, and the goal is to continue when possible.

### Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Pro D Day

- This is a whole district pro d day, and typically all schools come together in one venue to spend the day taking a variety of workshops. Once again it will be virtual this year, with 2 keynote speakers (Tanya Talaga and Ivan Coyote) in the morning, and a selection of workshops in the afternoon.

**Guest Speaker: Mitchell Jaramello from The Knowledge Society (“TKS”)**

- TKS is a global innovation society that focuses on providing time, knowledge, and mentorship for students 13-17 yrs. old. Their motto is “We help teens shape the future.”
- Started by 2 brothers, students spend 10 months meeting weekly with mentors while working on a project of their choice and direction. Modeled after curriculums from Stanford, Harvard, and MIT, the basic premise is that students are far more capable of innovation than perhaps they are given credit for. TKS believes that exposure to information and mentors, technology and innovators is essential for future problem solvers and those that can change our world.
- Sessions are 3hrs on the weekend, and students typically spend 5-10hrs a week working on their project.
- Students choose a technology and do a deeper dive into its real-world applications. They are provided a study and are encouraged and supported to pioneer new ideas based on that study (or studies).
- Some students go on to internships at major companies after school – these companies include IKEA, Apple, SpaceX, Google, Shopify and many more.
- Mentors are also from many of these same companies.
- Classes in Vancouver are in person, although others are still virtual. There are currently 2000+ students and alumni of the program worldwide.
- Students must go through an application process to be selected for the program, and it runs concurrent to the school year.
- Cost is \$500 - \$600/mth, plus \$1000 deposit. Note: financial assistance is available, anywhere from \$500 to a full ride scholarship.

**Q: Is the program intended for high school students?**

**A: Yes, for teens age 13 – 17.**

**Q: Do students get school credit for being part of this program?**

**A: Not right now. However, students create a portfolio of their work and learning, which can then be shown to universities and businesses.**

**Q: Do any kids go straight into jobs from this program?**

**A: Some go on to university, and then may make connections afterwards, some go on to start their own businesses, and some do go into an internship (typically for about a year) in a company right after graduation.**

**Q: What about students in gr 12 this year? 18 year olds?**

A: Typically students are younger, but there are currently a few 18 year olds in this year's program. The commitment may be more challenging for those students in gr 12, based on the focus needed on graduation credits, but they can certainly apply.

**\*\*Further clarification post meeting:**

- *Gap year students are 100% eligible.*
- *In fact, we've found that gap year students actually thrive in TKS because of their maturity, decreased stress levels, and their intentionality when it comes to preparing for their next steps. TKS tends to give them a sense of direction that they might have been using a gap year to attain.*

Q: How long has the company been around?

A: Started in 2016, with centers in Vancouver, Toronto, and Ottawa. Covid has expanded it to the virtual world.

Q: Do you have any information on intellectual ownership and data collection?

A: All students' work is attributed to, and owned by, the students.

Q: Data collection for minorities has very specific rules, just wondering where we can find those policies?

A: Will follow up with this. I (Mitchell) will need to confirm and clarify with his superiors.

Response from Mitchell post meeting:

- ***We don't disclose any personal information to the companies we work with whatsoever. Companies work directly with TKS as an entity on the Challenges we organize for the students, and students are brought in only when these educational experiences are launched.***
- ***The most a company would see is a student's name, and any information the student chooses to share in public, external-facing social profiles (e.g., their LinkedIn or TKS.life profiles - this is akin to a Resume)***
- ***The only exception to this would be if students are applying directly for internships or connecting with a TKS mentor, in which case the student is opting-in to a specific opportunity, and is corresponding typically over email with a recruiter or mentor directly.***

Q: How many students in the Vancouver class right now?

A: 28 in person. There has been a lot of interest, and they will be adding a second cohort next year. There are also virtual students (those not based in or near Vancouver).

Q: How do you do projects? Is there a lab?

A: It is predominantly done virtually. When they do meet on weekends, it is in a shared office space, booked for that class time only. Students will need to have their own computer etc. to work on their projects.

Q: (for Adrienne Goulas) Could the TKS project be used as a Capstone project?

A: Yes, there would be no reason they couldn't use it.

RDPA

Parent Survey

- District consulted the RDPA on the upcoming survey for families
- It will be a straightforward survey, looking at what has worked, or maybe not worked in this year's set up (semester and PLT). RDPA encourages families to talk to their children and see what they felt too.
- Students and staff will also have a survey to complete. Not sure if it will be completed in school, or as a take home option. Reality is there will be a better response if it is done in school.

#### Next Board meeting

- RDPA will attend and present a brief concerning ventilation systems in district schools. Elementary schools are the ones most affected by poor ventilation systems, although some secondary schools have some challenges too.

#### Calendar Committee

- School calendars up to the 2024/2025 school year have been set, and Pro D days chosen. Now schools will look over the suggestions and give feedback.

#### DAG chair meeting

- The RDPA will be looking to get all the DAG chairs together in the near future. This happens each year and allows the various groups to chat and brainstorm ideas, as well as share what resources (decorations, equipment etc.) that may be available to be borrowed.

MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> IS THE NEXT RDPA MEETING (no agenda has been set yet).

#### **Financial report**

- There was no activity on the general account in the last month. It remains the same
- 8 clubs have applied for their granted funds through the gaming account, totalling just shy of \$4000 paid out. There is still \$31,281.81 remaining.
- A final scholarship from last year is still waiting to be awarded to the recipient, and there is about \$20,000 or earmarked – but not claimed – funds waiting for clubs to access.

#### **Other**

- Hoping with the easing of restrictions, we will be able to do a more typical Teacher Appreciation Day. Thinking to wait for nicer weather in the hopes we could do something outside, and the longer we wait, the more restrictions may be lifted. Stay tuned.
- Because gaming funds have very specific items they can be spent on, PAC is always grateful for any parent donations that can be used for other activities, equipment (such as tech) etc. If you are interested in making a donation, information can be found here:

<https://mcmath.sd38.bc.ca/parents/parent-advisory-council/pac-downloads-and-documents>

Please click on the link that reads McMath PAC Donation Letter. And thank you in advance!

- Some sad news: Adrienne Goulas will be leaving McMath as of March 1<sup>st</sup>. She has been reassigned as a VP to Richmond Secondary. She's been at McMath for 8yrs and will be very much missed. We (the PAC exec) would like to wish her all the best in her new school. Richmond Secondary is very lucky to have her!

Meeting adjourned at 8:01