

PAC MEETING January 18, 2022

Attendance: Samantha H., (Co. Chair), Jon L.(Treasurer), Cinda W (Co. Secretary), Meg R. (Co. Secretary), Winson L. (Assistant Treasurer), Luke, Helmut D., Arlene M., Sue-Ann R., Jasmine P., Alexis G., Chena C., Karen F.H., Nadine S., Ledi D., Ivy G., Heidy M., Lingly W., Carol C., J.C., Jane M. (Principal), Tinh N. (Vice Principal), Ken H. (Board guest).

Meeting was opened at 7:01pm

Approval of Agenda: Helmut D., Jon L.

Approval of Minutes: Jon L., Samantha H.

Guest: Ken Hamaguchi

Ken is the school board trustee representative for McMath and joined the meeting to touch base.

Typically, he would have been at our September meeting to greet families, and to thank everyone for being engaged in their children's school. He is always happy to attend school events (when we can hold them again!) and encourages parents to contact him at any time if they have questions about the district.

He touched on the changing information that has come out of the PHO office/Ministry of Health this past couple of weeks and wanted to remind families that the district is following those health orders. There are lots of feelings around everything that has been, and is happening with covid-19, and it's important to remember that everyone is doing their best. Parents need to make the best choices for their children, and the district respects that.

Ken can be reached at khamaguchi@sd38.bc.ca

Administration Report

Health and Safety:

In response to the Omicron variant, and current health order requirements, the following is in place at McMath for the foreseeable future:

- Entrance and exit times have been staggered as much as is possible. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday the grades 10s, 11s, and 12s start school at 8:30. They are able to enter the school starting at 8:15 and are expected to be in class by 8:30. Gr 8s and 9s start class by 8:45. They are allowed to enter the school after 8:40 OR once the hallways are clear of the senior grades. At the end of the day, the grade 8s and 9s leave first, followed by the senior grades at 3pm. Entrance and exit is by the closest door to their first/last class of the day. At the beginning of the day, doors are propped open, and staff are on hand at each door to greet students, ensure everyone has a mask, and hands are sanitized. Note: the front doors are locked to prevent visitors coming in at busier times, and to encourage students to enter in the door closest to their class.
- Wednesday and Thursday are PLT days, and the gradual entries are not needed as the students are arriving at different times throughout the morning.

- Lunch time: seating in the rotunda is only on one side of the table to prevent students facing each other when they eat. Many classrooms are open (to a max 15 students per classroom) with windows and doors open for air flow, and there are other areas in the school for students to sit and eat. There are some congested areas, but for the most part students are doing very well. Note: the cafeteria is only open at lunch right now.
- During class time, classroom doors are left open, and windows as well where possible.
- There have been covid cases among both staff and students, some over the break, and some since classes resumed, but there have not been a tremendous number. While absences have been slightly higher, not all are covid, and not every parent passes on more information as to why their student is away – sometimes it is simple “they are away ill.”
- As per the health orders, schools are no longer sending notices for every case, the rationale being that it is important for everyone to be extra careful with this highly transmissible, airborne virus. In January there have been 3 notifications sent out, and all to the basketball teams as 3 students tested positive. These notices were sent out as when students are playing a game, they do not have to wear masks, and the risk of transmission was higher. This practice (less notices) will continue unless different orders come from the PHO.
- Note: School Covid Tracker has been showing there has been 15 cases of covid in McMath, but there is no real way to know how accurate that is. Again, if families choose not to share that information with the school, they cannot ask.
- Some families may be keeping students home for reasons other than illness, and the school is doing its best to accommodate those families. That said, it’s important to realize that there is no online teaching option, and while teachers will do their best to ensure students get the core competencies needed for the class, students will be missing out on group discussions, deeper study etc.

Question: What about supports for students who are home with covid? Is it up to the individual teachers to support those students?

Answer: Yes. There are no extra teachers available to support children off due to illness, so teachers in each class will determine what is being missed that needs to be caught up, and what may not be as necessary. Note, some teachers have also been away with covid, so if you haven’t heard from a teacher, do try again. If you still don’t hear from them, contact Jane.

Conference Day

The Theme of the December Conference Day was Diversity and Inclusion

- Most students attended 2 of 3 virtual, live stream sessions, 1 live presentation, and had 1 in class session that involved a variety of wellness activities.
- 3 Crows, and Indigenous company, was live, and approximately 2/3 to ¾ of the students were able to attend the performance due to capacity limits. The school is hoping to be able to bring the company back during PLT time, to allow all students a chance to see it. The story of Qwalena is an allegory of the history of Residential schools and the intergenerational trauma that the Indian Act and Residential schools have created, with the larger message that no one should have to tolerate abuse.

Question: What is/was the process for debriefing what students saw and were apart of that day?

Answer: Students attended all presentations with their homeroom and homeroom teacher. This decision was made specifically because students have already been involved in connections classes with their homeroom teachers, so there is a connection there. As well, counsellors were on hand for the Qwalena presentation, recognizing that some students may find it difficult.

Question/Statement: It might be helpful to front load and debrief with a trusted adult – if families were made aware of the content of the presentations, they could help prepare their students. For many gr 8s, they may not know their counsellors well enough to view them as a trusted adult.

Jane appreciates that feedback and will keep in in mind for future conferences and presentations.

Another Conference Day is planned for May 10th.

Music Concert

Mr. Fee and the band students were able to host about 150 parents/family members before the break. Some parents mentioned it was the first time they had actually been in the school, particularly parents of this year's grade 8s. It was a great evening.

Breakfast with Santa

Though different this year, students still had a good time. Student numbers were limited, and breakfast was individually packaged, but it was a good start to the winter break.

Athletics

- Late start this year, but soccer, cross country, and volleyball ran. And part way through the season we were able to welcome back spectators – if only for a short time!
- In volleyball, the senior girls placed 8th in the province, while the senior boys placed 3rd – despite the excitement of having the power go out completely in the semi finals. A few phone calls later, and Steveston London was gracious enough to open their gym to the teams to finish off the final game.

Grade 12/ Graduation

GLA /FI Assessment

*** At the time of the meeting, these were scheduled to be written January 24/25 by the grade 12s. The Graduation Literary Assessment is required for graduation, and the French Immersion Assessment (both a written and oral component) is required for the double Dogwood. This year is the first year the FI assessment is in place. The GLA is relatively new, and until this year had not been used by post secondary schools in their acceptance process. However, at the beginning of the school year, UBC announced students needed at least a 3 on the assessment.

On January 20th, the Ministry of Education announced that due to the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic, the January test would be cancelled. Further, that no gr 12 student currently on track to graduate would be impacted by this. At this point, no one quite knows what will happen with the assessments. Stay tuned!

Winter Formal

- Unfortunately postponed. Hopefully they will be able to hold it in late February or early March, but it will depend on what is happening with health orders etc. Current PHO orders are in effect until February 16th.

Formal will be limited to maximum 200 graduates, and no outside dates allowed. The current grad class has 274 members, but typically not all students attend

Artona on site for grad photos Jan 20 -26th

Boat cruise, dinner dance still TBA

Valedictory is still booked for June at the Chan Center

The February 11 ski trip may or may not be able to go ahead

Semester Turnaround

The end of the semester is coming soon. January 28th is semester turn around day. Students will not be in attendance that day so that teachers can wrap up first semester and prepare for second.

- Semester 2 timetables will be handed out Jan 24th, and while there may be a few adjustments, there is very little wiggle room in the timetable.
- One benefit to the semester system is that students who failed a course in semester one, have the potential to retake the course in semester two.

Program Planning

- Grade 7 virtual meetings begin January 31st with the feeder elementary schools. There will be a grade 7 night on February 8th for students and their families (also virtual).
- Current students will be meeting during PLT on Jan 26th and 27th. The hope is to be able to do this in person, utilizing the gyms and rotunda, but we will have to see if it is feasible.
- A virtual parent meeting will be scheduled.

Question: Will there be an in-person day for incoming grade 8s in the spring?

Answer: Hopefully, it is what the school wants to do, but if it is not possible, it will be done virtually like last year.

Question: Will program planning options be online?

Answer: Yes, in fact it is there now, HOWEVER, it is still being tweaked and adjusted, so best to wait until it is announced finalized.

There will be a new course next year, for grades 11s and 12s only. Mme Nishi will be teaching Active Living and Coaching Leadership. Focus will be on leadership and coaching within athletics, and students will work towards earning their coaching certification. There will only be one block for this class, so as not to impact the regular Leadership class.

If families have any questions, they should not hesitate to email or call the school.

Treasurer's report

General account has had no activity since the last PAC meeting.

Gaming: 1 of the 2 outstanding scholarships was claimed over the break, leaving one still to contact us with enrollment credentials. A handful of cheques were written for clubs, and there is currently slightly more than \$28, 000 in committed funds that hasn't been claimed yet.

Meeting was called at 7:58pm