

McMath PAC Minutes April 19, 2022 7:02 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), Arlene M, Carol C, Heidy M, Helmut D, Irene Z, Ivy G, Larissa L, Nadine S, Winston L

Adoption of the Agenda: Megan, Dionne

Adoption of Minutes: Helmut, Samantha

Principal's Report

Sports

- Senior girls basketball won Provincial Championship at the Langley Events Centre. Glad that we have fans back in the audience watching the play.
- Spring sports starting: girls soccer, boys rugby, track, golf, ultimate, grade 8 boys volleyball, tennis, table tennis, badminton. Parents welcome to come watch.

Grad Events

- Grad Spring Formal was April 1st, lots of dancing at Riverside Banquet Hall
- Dry After Grad (DAG) has been very active meeting in the school library. They have sent a request out to volunteers. Following is description from the McMath website:

“In addition to the Grade 12 parent committee chairs and committee members, 60 to 80 volunteers are required to execute the DAG event. These volunteers are grade 11 and (if necessary) grade 10 parents. Parents set up the day before and the day of and, supervise on the night of and take down directly after the event. Parents who have skills in carpentry and lighting would be especially helpful. Please reply to mcmathdag2022@gmail.com (link sends e-mail) with your email and we will send you a Volunteer Sign-up Form where you can choose time, date and skill set that best appeals to you.”

Graduation Assessments

- Literacy 12 session in January was cancelled due to concerns about Covid. Rescheduled to April.
- Kids in French Immersion do not need to do a FI exam. This was meant to be the first year but Ministry had decided to delay.
- Grade 10s will be sitting Numeracy

- Results of the assessments will appear on the student transcript as a number from 1 to 4, with 4 being *Extending*, and 1 being *Emerging*; making their way to learning in that area. Most kids in our school score a 3. If students would like the opportunity to rewrite an assessment they are able to do that and should check with Ms. Naidu, our new Vice-Principal.

Outdoor Learning Space

- Additional outdoor seating and a small gazebo built at front
- Looking forward to more teachers taking their students outdoors

Timetable & Model

- Time-tabling is underway. If a particular course has low numbers it will not run and students will be given their alternative choices.
- Changes can be made if a student changes post-secondary direction and needs to add a course / if a course is missing.
- Timetable Models Survey & Summary for McMath. This survey was not a vote but an opportunity for input for the district to review.

Students - 608 participated (half of student body)
 67% thought semester model worked best for them
 13 % Linear
 10% Quarter model
 5% Hybrid - combination of semester & linear
 5% Unsure/undecided

Parents - 435 participated (1/3 of families)
 66% semester
 19% linear
 5% quarter
 6% Hybrid
 3% undecided

- Staff engaged in process of which model would look best for students. Teachers are split between linear and semester. Advantages to both.
- Some linear advantages:
 - Longer processing time for kids
 - Opportunity to do things more slowly, get to know the teacher over a longer period of time
 - If student is absent for a week not as heavy for any one course, missing 2.5 days of same subject instead of 5 for semester system

- Some semester advantages:
 - Not so overwhelming as doing 8 courses at the same time, 4 more manageable
 - Knowing that an end was not too far down the road
 - Opportunity to repeat a course in the same school year instead of going to summer school
 - Opportunity to accelerate (eg. to take AP calculus in grade 12)
- Publish a decision of which model will be used by the first week in May.
- PLT
 - Half the kids are coming twice a week. Students who are attending are making very good use of that time
 - Kids want it twice a week, in the morning. Some kids say time is useful for sleeping in, others have indicated that they appreciate the PLT time if they need it. Some students say it has helped them get more organized
 - Half of kids not coming in. Why is that? Is it because they have studied hard the night before and need to sleep in? Because they are not self-disciplined enough to come in? How could we change it so it was better utilized by students? Looking at putting PLT at a different time during the day, but if kids are not wanting to be there, simply filling seats would not be as productive for those who need it. For example, if a class fills, some students might be unable to get into a location where they would prefer to be, and are therefore pushed into another location, would that be a good learning environment for the kids that do want to be there? Much to consider.
 - Parent in favour of PLT but not by as big a margin as the students. Parents questioning if it is a good use of instructional time. Too many saying child using to sleep in and not effective for them.

Question: Is it possible to put PLT after the first class?

Answer: Morning intended to help kids develop and activate decision making and organization so that they can become more independent learners, valuable for when they go on to post secondary. Possibility for more directive/prescriptive with 8s and 9s giving choice to 10, 11 and 12s. Older kids come to school and work with classmates or connect with teachers. Some kids would just be there because we need a location to hold them. Can be used as a homework block. Again, back to the productivity question for the kids that do want to be there.

Question: Is there a possibility that McMath may go back to linear?

Answer: Yes. School staff (teachers, administrators/RTA collective agreement process) looking at information and feedback from staff. That info will go to the district and ultimately the district will make a decision.

- McMath asked district to break it down grades 8/9/10/11/12, as younger students have not experienced linear. Every grade preferred semester.
- Teachers saying semester is sometimes too quick sometimes for student to process info.
- Difficult to squash the content into fewer days (even though comparable number of hours)
- PE every second day may be healthier for kids. Backed with a compulsory education like math or science on alternate days.
- Band teacher worried how kids would practice in the other semester, language teachers concerned about learning intense one semester then nothing second semester

Students are the ones we are trying to benefit but teachers are the professionals and looking at how they can best help students learn.

Question: With the semester system there can be an uneven distribution of course load. Have grades been compared in linear and semester?

Answer: No, in the short-term, we would have limited data to make sense of it. The Ministry does look at the data, and there is no evidence that the kids do better in linear or semester. This has been shown by provincial exams that used to exist.

Tinh is looking best to balance semesters course weights. Blocks are set with fewest conflicts. Computer gives a choice, counselors look at it and manually make adjustments taking more factors into account. Some courses easier for some kids and harder for others so hard to judge weight of load at times

Question: Could PLT be last block?

Answer: Possible that after lunch, more kids would not stick around.

- Parent Learning

Mental Health Workshop for parents on May 4, 7-8:30 pm Will be communicated through WAAG or website.

Sometimes parents say child not coming to school because they are anxious. An admin or counsellor will reach out to help support child scaffold things at school and direct child toward available support agencies. If there is someone missing we want to help them deal with the cause so they can participate and continue schooling. We really want to be aware of students social emotional health and needs.

- Field trips next year
 - Grace Ho trip to Japan over Spring break
 - Costa Rica grade 12 trip over Spring break is looking favorable
- 50 fewer students next year. Below 1200, but still the largest school.
- May 10 Conference Day
 - Build community within the school, student council planning pep rallies
 - Nice to have these fun opportunities for kids again.
- Parent discussion **question:** Food choices
 - Ministry of Health and Education is announcing a new 2022 school food guideline. Unhealthy choices of what teens are bringing, how to go about educating, encouraging students to make better choices? Example of crates of Gatorade Zero on the sidelines of sports events. New guideline will feature no sugar substituents (chemicals), juice may also be stripped off the list. What can we do to advocate for better options for them?

Answer: Stacey Green, new food provider this year. Feedback is kids prefer her food and she has to follow the guidelines. Some junk stuff and a lot of healthy good stuff as well.

In vending machines helping to do away with selling bottled water as we have filtered refilling machines.

With club fundraisers we try to limit the type of junk food types of fundraisers to very few per year.

PAC Report

- AGM for PAC executive nominations and voting next month. All PAC steps down and positions are fulfilled by voting.
 - Secretary, co-secretary role(s) to be filled, there are no present nominations. If anyone wants more information Cinda and Megan will be happy to share.
 - Dionne and Samantha are willing to co-chair with Dionne taking the more active role this time, if nominated and voted in.
 - Jon willing to Treasurer, teaching Winson
 - Parent community can step forward or nominate anyone suitable at the meeting or in advance. Either by email to mcmathpac@gmail.com or just speak up at the meeting. Vote will be in May at the PAC meeting.
 - Description of the PAC executive roles are on the Website under Parents/ Parents Advisory Council drop down menu and can be found here: [R A McMath PAC Constitution & bylaws](#) or here (cut and paste): <https://mcmath.sd38.bc.ca/sites/mcmath.sd38.bc.ca/files/attachments/>

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- RDPA:
Budget advisory working group. More budget cuts on the way. Last meeting 4 million dollar shortfall.
RDPA AGM May 3
- Treasurer's Report
 - General account received \$200 for staff appreciation, \$50 more just arrived.
 - Gaming account: \$22 000 still not claimed from clubs.
 - Requesting: During covid we have been very mindful of financial situations and of asking parents to donate.
 - As a reminder, in lieu of asking parents to fundraise, we ask parents consider making a donation upfront.
 - Last year staff appreciation was not a themed buffet lunch as usual, instead it was reduced and all outdoors. This occasion is to thank the entire McMath staff.
 - We are hoping to get back to some sort of appreciation lunch. If you can, please consider making a donation to help support the lunch and all teachers admin and staff have done for students over the past few years. This can be done by email to mcmathpac@gmail.com or by dropping a marked envelope, for attention of the PAC, to the office.

Feedback from Jane: Pro D or staff meeting, for example, not all staff members feel comfortable being in close proximity or sharing buffet meals.

We will try to do it in a way that allows some choice.

Parents please reach out with ideas

Total staff, admin and support: 100 people

Meeting adjourned: 8:37

Next virtual meeting : Tuesday, May 17 at 7pm via Zoom