

## PAC Meeting – May 17/22

### Minutes

Attending: Samantha H., (Chair) Dionne M., (Vice-Chair) Jon L., (Treasurer) Cinda W., (Co Secretary) Meg R., (Co-Secretary) Winson L., Silvia, Arlene M., Carol C., Helmut D, Tammy O., Ledi D., Peter M., Nadine S, Andrea A.

**Meeting opened** at 7:03pm

**Approval of Agenda:** Winson/Cinda

**Approval of Minutes:** Jon/Samantha

### **First Call for PAC executive nominations**

Cinda W. will not be standing for another term as secretary, and Meg R. will not be at McMath next year as her child is graduating

No nominations in first call

### **Admin Report**

Aarthi Naidu (new Vice Principal) and Jane McFadyen

### **Update on Grad activities:**

- Grads and staff waged a dodge ball war on May 6<sup>th</sup>, it was a lot of fun, and the grads crushed the staff
- Upcoming events:
  - Boat Cruise May 27 (227 grads have purchased tickets)
  - Valedictory ceremony June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Chan Centre (note: masks are mandatory at all indoor venues at UBC)
  - Dinner Dance June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Fairmont Waterfront (currently 190 grads have purchased tickets)
  - Dry After Grad June 23<sup>rd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> – post dinner dance until 5am Friday morning. Students are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

**Conference Day** – May 10<sup>th</sup>

- There were a couple of hiccups, but for the most part it went very well. Focus was on social/emotional learning.
- Pep rally was a highlight. Pep rally is a time for the school to come together to celebrate the wonderful diversity of the community. Clubs and some school teams parade through the gym, there are cheers, the dance team performs. Because the student body is too large to fit all in one gym, there were 2 pep rallies – some students enjoyed the first one so much, they came back for the second!
- Planning to run 2 Conference days again next year, possibly Oct/May, but dates are TBA. Connections classes are going to be reduced from 6 to 4 (2 each semester). In the past, connections classes have taken place in homerooms, but the teachers have asked that next year's classes be attached to a class to allow for a greater connection between staff and students. Homeroom teachers typically only see students briefly to hand out important information a handful of times a year. By choosing to attach connections classes to a semester class (i.e., English), staff feel they will be better able to support students in their learning.

#### **Grade 7 Welcome – June 1<sup>st</sup>**

- Postponed from May 25<sup>th</sup>, Leadership students will once again be welcoming the new Wildcats with a series of activities and a tour of the school.

**Question:** Is the Gr 7 tour day or night?

**Answer:** Daytime, from 10-12. This is only for the students, they will be coming from their elementary schools.

#### **Athletics**

- It's been a good spring: badminton, girls' tennis, soccer, ultimate, golf, rugby and track
- Tennis team is in the finals
- Girls' soccer is playing in the S. Frasers May 18<sup>th</sup>

#### **Murals**

- After the success of the mural on the front of the school, Leadership students looked to continue beautifying the area. Currently the C cans at the back of the school (the large containers that hold emergency supplies) are being painted by the students, under the guidance of an artist. One of the students has created a design for the mechanical room

doors/area that will be completed afterwards. Cost is \$4700, with funds coming from student activity fees, money from the cafeteria and international student funds.

## **New Timetable**

- After surveying students, staff, and families, and several staff meetings, McMath will be remaining on a semester system for the 2022/2023 school year. It was a tight vote with the staff, but ultimately, they decided it was the best option. This can and will be re-evaluated for future years.
- PLT will remain, however the timing will be shortened to 60-minute blocks, twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The 2 long classes will not happen next year, instead there will be a regular 4 class day, but those classes will be shorter. Staff decided that while the potential of the long blocks was good, ultimately it would be better to go back to 4 classes.
  - PLT will continue to be first thing in the morning, there was consideration about having it between blocks A&B, but ultimately that would compromise the ability of students to go to the classes they need to, and restrict space in other areas of the school
  - Staff are still looking at rotation models and will be voting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. There are advantages and disadvantages to a fixed rotation. Staff will be asking students in classes what their feelings are towards fixed vs rotating blocks.
  - Having fixed classes can allow for classes to run outside of the timetable (the teacher may start a block later and run a class later in the day, still staying within the mandated 6.5 hrs max working hours a day) – band is a prime example of this.

**Question:** What about just A & B are fixed, while C&D rotate?

**Answer:** that is a thought. Options being considered include:

ABCD BCDA

Fixed BI A

Fixed BI D

Rotate A&B, then C&D halfway through the semester

ABCD first half of semester and BADC second half

No one is in favour of daily rotations

A comment was made that a challenge with fixed rotation is students in sports will always miss the same class.

**Question:** Would we lose any teachers because they are working at 2 schools?

**Answer:** Only 2 schools are staying on the linear system next year – Richmond and MacNeil. In one case yes, as currently a teacher works at both McMath and MacNeil, but in another instance no, as the teacher will be working at McMath and Palmer and able to split their day.

## **Retirement News**

Jane is retiring! She has been at McMath for 5 years, after asking for the move in 2017. She has loved her time at the school and is leaving feeling a lot has been accomplished. Students and parents have been fantastic, and she will miss that part.

She is looking forward to slowing down and making less decisions! Travel is also something she is looking forward to doing. Jane has been in the district since 1984 and has seen a lot of changes over the years.

Aarthi and Tinh will hopefully remain as VPs, and the new principal will start July 1<sup>st</sup>. District is hoping to announce new staffing next week. UPDATE – Jeff Johnstone will be the new principal at McMath. He comes to Richmond from Surrey.

PAC would like to wish her a wonderful retirement. It has been a pleasure working with her!

Other retirements in the school:

- Rob Jenson
- Gale Simonson
- Daniella Caldwell

## **PISA**

Will be written in the coming weeks

**Question:** What is the gr 10 PISA, and does every student have to write it?

**Answer:** PISA is an assessment that is solely used to see where our education ranks compared to other countries. It has no bearing on a student's marks or transcript at all. McMath and McRoberts were selected from Richmond this time around. Students were selected in a random draw, and 53 gr 10s will be writing the assessment. Again, it is solely a data gathering exercise to give a snapshot on Canadian education compared to other countries.

## **Bathrooms**

- A reminder that bathrooms are checked multiple times a day for cleanliness etc. Sometimes there is a bit of a mess (paper towels not in the garbage, toilets not flushed) and once in awhile some vandalization, although this has seemed to have stopped in

recent months. Every so often more cleaning needs to happen, so the bathroom may be closed for a short period of time to allow for this

- Students should never feel uncomfortable about using a bathroom in the school and are encouraged to tell the office if there is a mess in a bathroom. Students are reminded they can always use the gender-neutral bathroom.

## **RDPA**

- Board meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>, this is the meeting where the budget for the 2022/2023 school year will be finalized
  - RDPA, CUPE, and the RTA are all in agreement that cuts must not affect children or classrooms.

## **Treasurer's Report**

- We have received donations to the tune of \$370 over the last month, along with a \$500 donation from the Army, Navy, Airforce Ladies Auxiliary for a scholarship, That donation has been turned over to the school
- Gaming Funds: final PAC scholarship recipients have claimed their scholarships from last year's graduating class
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> and final allotments of requested funds were made, and we are left with \$11,675.35 once all those cheques clear. Currently there is just over \$1500 in unclaimed funds, but sometimes there will be a late receipt in June. Updates will happen in September.
- Last call for donations from families
  - PAC is hoping to do a nice staff luncheon, especially with Jane retiring this year
  - Any amount helps, families can do an e transfer to [mcmathpac@gmail.com](mailto:mcmathpac@gmail.com) or leave a cheque at the office
  - Staff appreciation lunch will be on June 16<sup>th</sup>

## **AGM Nominations**

Call for nominations:

Chair – Dionne M, nominated by      seconded by Samantha H

Co-Chair – Samantha H nominated by Dionne M, seconded by Meg R

Treasurer – Jon L, nominated by Samantha H, seconded by Meg R

Vice/Co treasurer – Winson L nominated by Samantha H, seconded by Meg R

Secretary

Nominations were accepted.

No nominations for Secretary. It is noted that we need a secretary to be able to apply for the yearly gaming grant through BCLC. McMath receives approximately \$24,000 a year through this grant, and it pays for the requests from clubs, the school etc.

NOTE: at the end of the meeting Ledi D offered to stand for one of the co-secretary positions, the second will be filled in September.

**Question:** When do we apply for the grant?

**Answer:** Anytime after April, but in order to receive the funds in the fall we must have a full PAC executive.

### **Final questions**

**Question:** For the fashion show, will we need to buy the ticket in advance?

**Answer:** Likely you can just show up, but seating will be limited to 200 max.

**Question:** Is it ok to bring food for the staff luncheon?

**Answer:** For safety sake, we are going with a catered lunch, but are really hopeful to get back to regular potluck appreciation lunches next year.

Next year's meeting dates will come out before the end of the school year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

