



McMath PAC Agenda (Hybrid)

October 17, 2023

Attendee (in person): Robert (Chair), Lingly (Secretary), Winson (Treasurer), Jeff (Principal), Colleen, Ivy, Yuehan

Attendee (virtual): Joel W., Amy R, Andrea, Andy, Carol, Cathay S., Cheyna, E.C., Fiona, H.M., Jae, Jocelyn B., Ledi D., Liliana D., Iratzlaff, Peter, Sharmila, Silvia, Udayana, Mona R, Lavina L, Jack C, Mo, Sue-Ann R, Luisella, Elena F, Esperanza, Avan, Lil, KMD, Arthur, Kristine D, Gen, Minh Quang Lê

Territory Acknowledgement – We would like to start by acknowledging the land where we gather today, the unceded territories of the people of the Hə́n̓ q'ə́min'ə́m̓ language group who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial.

Opening:

- Meeting started at 7:03pm with some housekeeping reminders.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

First: Robert

Second: Ivy

2. Adoption of the Minutes - Sept. 17, 2023

First: Robert

Second: Yuehan

3. Principal's Report & addressing pre-submitted parent questions:

- Acknowledge gathering today on unceded territory of Musqueam land.

Grad 2024:

- Grad boat cruise sunset photo. Cool evening but lovely overall.

- 250 kids attended. Emails sent to grads and parents to share photos. It was a busy evening downtown with BC Lions and Canuck game at same time.

Truth & Reconciliation.:

- This year staff were challenged with ideas. Last year about 10 people participated, this year a few hundred with a few activities proposed by staff.

- One activity this year was the Musqueam tree - orange leaf/sticky were added to a tree with answers on what that individual was going to do for reconciliation moving forward. It was very meaningful and the kids were respectful. More solemn activities.
- Hugh Boyd gifted a flag to McMath that is now on the 3rd pole in front of the school.
- The ministry and district has given funding for food to students who need help with breakfast/lunch. See counselor and admin if student need help, they will make sure food is available.
- Halloween is coming up. Especially with Gr. 8, a reminder that costumes need to be sensitives and appropriate. Have to be able to see faces and no replica of weapons.

School story:

- Part of Ministry requirement info and data is gathered on how we are connecting with kids. Each year has a theme. 3 things - our purpose (see slide). Last year departments did their own purpose, this year we will merge the purposes.
 - PRIDE - revamping Pride. Has not been reviewed since 2003. Some of the posters are getting tired. So a revamp is planned and sticking with PRIDE core meaning. School activity with staff organizing that.
 - New posters created by kids making it more meaningful to the theme and to current students.
 - Some of the words and values may have changed, ie: Equity is missing in the PRIDE.
- Part 2 of School Story. This is an exciting update. District last year had student voices, approx. 10-15 students gathered last year. Gr. 9-11 youths represented student voices. Mr. Banta will be working with 15 students as leaders and see what students want to see in their school.
 - Admin has ideas, ie: ideas include vaping and vandalism. Will see how students feel and share their thoughts. No questions, just gathering info from students with info going back to staff. Goal is to help improve the culture. We are about a week behind in timeline, meeting with kids next week. There will be 5 forums with random students invited to join the conversation.
 - McMath image/reputation is good for athletics, leadership and academics. This is not lost to the students.

Question: Will teachers be nominating students?

Answer: Leadership program was approached with the forum and random students will be selected. Students ranging from Gr. 8-12 will be represented.

Traffic:

- Pick up and drop off reminders. An observation, a lot of speeding in the round-about and parents driving distracted, looking for their kids. Admin had 10 times asked parents not to park in handicap space. Parents need to be better role models.
- Drivers can not park just anywhere and it's clogging traffic. New bus is having issues with random cars parked about.
- 1300 students arriving at the same time is chaotic. It is suggested that families try to stagger arrival and pick up to avoid congestion.

- Some teachers are getting frustrated with tardiness. Approx. 60-80 cars counted from 830 am-840 am. Keep it in mind to be on time, it is understandable that there are reasons but try to be on time.

4. RDPA Report:

- No update and a new McMath representative is still needed.

5. Treasurer's Report:

- General account: From September 1, 2023, no movement so balance remaining at \$612.42.
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon is funded from the General account, we may need to fundraise. Parent donations are welcome.
- Gaming Account: From September 1, 2023, we have \$23, 640 from grant with a total of \$30, 262.70 balance in account. Grants will be used for club/extra curricular activities according to the gaming fund guidelines.
- PAC has been receiving funding requests with submissions deadline being Nov. At the November meeting, PAC will present distribution of the funds and vote to approve.

6. PAC/Committee Update:

- PAC meetings will continue with hybrid, Zoom and In Person. Zoom link remains the same. Right now we have 32 virtual with 7 ppl in person so nice to see such a good attendee.
- DAG: Chair and committees need to start planning.
- Traffic: regularly discussed and seen on the WAAG.
Signage and traffic flow had been discussed but needed to encourage and remind parents to be courteous and don't rush along the street. RCMP are doing their patrols and monitored both by RCMP and bylaws.

Q: What if kids were dropped off on Garry and No. 1 rd or at Railway and Garry or closer at Wisteria and Garry?

A: It has been encouraged that kids be dropped off somewhere that is respectful of traffic and neighbours.

- Cathy had sent a letter to Alexa Loo (City Council) regarding concerns with traffic flow on Garry. Cathy and husband are willing to meet with anyone in the City to discuss issues. Raised crosswalk was suggested but issues with installing that. Cathy is happy to continue pushing this. With a new senior home (Lions) coming in there are concerns with more traffic. Signs suggested to City staff. Cathy had driven by Brunette and didn't see issues but see such chaos at McMath.

Chat: This year Burnett PAC put out cones and had parents at the in and out lanes.

Chat: Could we have the district engage with traffic consultant to review current traffic plan with CoR engineering department? Sometime a third party may bring some inspiration on table

- Rob would like to have more info gathered and see if we can have our own group. Gather our own data before approaching district or city.
- Cathy has concerns with traffic from Wisteria and 2 elementary schools, there is lots of traffic.

Chat: Please be aware not all kids are able to bypass a car ride in to school. A bit of ableist comments as you can appreciate some students may have disabilities, visible or invisible and may not be able to walk or bike.

- Cathy finding the city is not taking issues seriously. Would like to see PAC gather and push this through. Rob would like to see if there is a group that would like to get together and see how we can improve and observe the situation. There are lots of stakeholders so we need to make sure we have all our facts. Rob suggested if we can review by the next meeting. Get more parents together and work with Jeff.

7. Fundraising:

- We need to solicit for sponsorship to replace the \$3500 lost. A few ideas were suggested and a first aid kit fundraiser was proposed. Canadian Safety Supplies was suggested. Rob will work with the group to bring this fundraiser into school. Rob will share link.
www.canadiansafetysupplies.com.

Question: Can this be set up Cash Online for pymt on purchase of kits?

Answer: May be tricky. Process is form is sent out, old school. Suggested that we get Gr12 volunteers and parents help out.

Question: How is it delivered?

Answer: Rob will speak with the company and work out details.

- Jeff: Worried if staff can help out, still short on office staff. If there was a FT person Jeff would like to offer help but concerned not able to offer support.

8. DAG:

- Works need to be done for DAG Gr12. Looking for people to step up and take a lead. Last year's event looked fabulous and new committee is needed. Please reach out to PAC if you can help Chair the committee and help.
- DAG is a subcommittee of PAC.

Question: How parents can get involved?

Answer: Last year email went out to parents for PAC to start.

- TODO: PAC needs to draft an email for Admin to send out to Gr12 parents.
- Jeff has several parents who mentioned interest.

Emailed/Chat Questions:

Q: I am interested in connecting with parents, staff and admin to see if there is interest in bringing information and potentially an initiative to McMath which encourages students to leave their cell phones inaccessible for 1 day a week during instructional time.

A school on the Sunshine Coast got buy in from parents, staff and students and tried it for one year. With many successful markers observed , the entire district has adopted the no phone zone policy this year. Increased academic achievement, engagement, mood, self-esteem, were all reported findings.

The WHO (World Health Organization) also declared cell phone use during hours of educational instruction as detrimental to overall health and well-being this year.

This link provides information, data (US only) and toolkits to explore the option of educating, policy changing etc. <https://www.awayfortheday.org/about-1>

Just putting it out there to see if interest among any groups exists....Thank you in advance for considering this as an agenda item.

Answer: Jeff, can be talked about among the staff. Phones are wonderful tool but can not be. Will discuss this with the staff on this. Note. all the Gr.8 were given the survey (gr678) about 200 plus gr8. The data showed on how often and what they use their phones and shocking to see the data.

Answer: Jeff will take this back to the staff to see what they think.

Question: Dear McMath PAC Executives,

My apologies for the late question / comment, but I have heard that several of the boys bathrooms (such as the boy's gym, upper c wing) do not have functioning locks on the toilet stalls. I would imagine that students would feel very uncomfortable and needs to be addressed.

Are there any plans in place to fix these?

Thanks for listening and your consideration.

Answer: Correct, on the B wing and lower C wing had been vandalized and broken. Service request submitted. Waiting for that. It's mainly vandalism and not wear and tear.

Question: Does anyone supervise hallways and bathrooms?

Answer: Yes but....3 noon supervisors that help during lunch, after then principals patrol. Still waiting for security cameras. Camera not in bathroom but outside the doors. If we had camera we would have caught video of the person who started the last fire. Six kids a few weeks ago caught vaping on school grounds.

Question: Who will install cctv how long does feeds will be stored?

Answer: System will be installed by district and managed by them, three businesses were tendered. McMath will be first and then McNeil will be 2nd school getting cameras. Cameras will be both inside and outside.

Question: What happens with discipline for kids caught vaping?

Answer: Students have been informed during assembly and what the rules are, Suspension. Vaping is a social gathering, kids have been told if they are part of the group they will all be disciplined. Regardless if they themselves are doing the act. Kids have been finding it uncomfortable being in the washroom because of vaping groups.

Comment: If there is a Student Council initiative that promotes PRIDE, athletic pep rallies etc please reach out to PAC for behind the scenes support. Parents are here to help, Admin can reach out through PAC and parents can help support be it volunteer or support.

Answer: Robert does agree and would like to be here to help make the school better and community driven.

Question: Is there a ski club this year?

Answer: It does exist, was at Thursday's Club Day. Students who missed club day can still join, see Philpotts. A popular club, last year the club booked 3 buses for the trip to Cypress.

Question: May we know any incidence of drug abuse inside and right outside McMath after this academic year? Opioid and substance uses have been a burning issue after the establishment of the regulation.

Answer: Custodians often end up cleaning up weekend parties on the school grounds.

Mariguana, THC, had been picked up. Challenges are new drugs, vape, can not be detected as easily as in the past. It does exist at school. Last year Uber eats had been flagged delivering alcohol for school.

Question: Do students get drug education on homeroom conference or collaboration days?

Answer: Part of the school health program. May be possible to add to connection days. It is suggested that parents have the conversation with your children. Among other principals, they have found someone had rigged a vape to a highlighter so be aware and have the conversation with your child.

Question: Is club list online?

Answer: Yes, but needs to be updated.

Question: Has 2023/2024 budget/funding been allocated?

Answer: No. assignment will be given to clubs and extracurricular activities. As per the latest gaming fund guideline, we cannot use the gaming fund for scholarships, and we will need to consider fundraising for that if we would like to have PAC scholarships for upcoming and future years.

The \$3,500 (for 7 x \$500) that use to be assigned to scholarships now can be applied towards clubs or other items on the wishlist. Budget will be approved next meeting.

9. Meeting Adjourned: 8:25pm

Zoom Meeting

Topic: McMath PAC Meeting

Time: Sep 19, 2023 07:00 PM Vancouver

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81034384232?pwd=29TJvVOdqLXAzi5PqbqdxjYZ0apNjM.1>

Meeting ID: 810 3438 4232

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