

## PAC MEETING – FEBRUARY 23, 2021

**Attending:** Theresa K, Karen L, Peter M, Jocelyn B, Lisa F, Cheyna C, Ivy G, Diane D, Helmut D, Arlene M, Kirsty M, Nadine S, Ledi D, Tammy O, Louise C, Silvia B, Amen B, Winson L, Gargi D, Heidi M, Jacqueline C, Karen F-H, Samantha H, Jon L, Cinda W, Megan R.

**Admin:** Jane McFadyen, Adrienne Goulas

Meeting opened at 7:03 pm

Approval of the Agenda: Jon L and Cinda W

Approval of the minutes: Karen L, and Jon L

### **Admin Report:**

**Jane McFadyen**

#### **Table 38**

- Table 38 is a group that comprises student leaders from all secondary schools in Richmond, who meet regularly.
- McMath hosted the most recent meeting, and the focus was on “AQ” or adaptability quotient, which is something – along with emotional and intelligence quotients – that is being introduced to students.
- AQ looks at being able to adjust and thrive in different situations, it’s more that just being able to “go with the flow” but looks deeper at being open to change; to new ideas; seeing change(s) not as obstacles, but rather new experiences.
- Important to build these skills as the world is every changing, often very quickly, and we can’t predict all changes that are coming.
- 5 areas are key to adaptability:
  - Having or creating clear goals
  - Being curious
  - Being a flexible thinker
  - Striving for calm and confidence
  - Planning ahead
- These 5 traits are being modeled by staff as much as possible, to show that adaptability is a strength that can only help them in their futures.

#### **Fall 2021 start of the school year.**

- At this point the planning is for it to be in person, and hopefully a typical start to the school year.
- At this point, all students are choosing 8 courses, although at this point how those 8 courses will play out over the year has yet to be decided – there may be the quarter system still, or semesters, or back to linear.
- Parents will have a chance to take part in a survey that is looking to see what we might want to keep from this school year, what might we want to see go forward even in more typical school years.

**\*\*\*\*It is important to note that no decision has been made about the next school year, we will need to wait and see what happens, and what the PHO and Ministry decide for the fall\*\*\*\***

## Masks and Distancing

- Students are doing incredibly well with remembering to wear masks. On the odd occasion students take a break, they quickly replace them. For any students that forget to bring a mask, there are always extra ones at each doorway in the morning and afternoon.
- Distancing is harder and is still a conversation with the gr 8s and 9s. Not having the senior students in the school at lunch means the natural modeling that would happen, isn't. Remembering to keep a distance is hard, but a work in progress.

## Intermurals

- Running at lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the gr 8s only. Currently they are playing volleyball, 4 on 4. French Immersion is in one gym, the English cohort in the other.

## Adrienne Goulas – McMathCARES

- Brittney Schiefer, Andrea Phillpots, Mark Patten and Adrienne came together as a committee after the school had the results of the student survey taken in the fall. They looked at how students are feeling, where they are feeling challenges. From this grew McMathCARES, which aims to find ways to encourage, support and challenge students to boost their mental health, and support others to do the same.
- They have planned a wellness challenge that will happen over 10 days in April. Each day will have different activities and challenges that aim to help improve mental well-being and boost social emotional learning (SEL). Challenges will take place both as group activities in classes, and also as individual challenges.
- Admin shared a video that will be shown to the students, that talks about what SEL actually comprises: self awareness, social awareness, self management, responsible decision making and relationship skills (among others). All are concepts teachers are already working on with students, this will be expanding on existing learning.
- While it's a 10-day challenge, students will have the month to complete all the various components. Challenges will include journaling, meditation, relationship skills, and more, with the goals of providing students with more tools to manage stress and anxiety, perhaps fins new activities they never realized they would enjoy, increase confidence in decision making etc.
- You can follow McMathCARES on social media! IG – **mcmathcares** and on Twitter – **McMathCARES (@caresMath)**. Watch for: **#mcmathcareswellnesschallenge**.

## Outdoor Classroom

- Andrea Phillpots has been working on an initiative – the Outdoor Classroom. She began with questions like: How might an outdoor classroom would promote deeper learning and build community? “Would it enrich place-based learning and embody the Indigenous Principle of Learning?”
- Received a grant and has begun building the learning space out by the garden. Students have engaged in envisioning what might be created, how the space might evolve, and have come up with some wonderful and creative ideas.
- This will be a multi-year project (2-4 years) with each year building on the last. This year there will be 4 new plots in the garden, a bench and possibly a storage shed.

## Enrollment 2021/2022

- As most years, there are a lot of requests to transfer to McMath for the coming school year. Typically, the school is able to accommodate siblings and elementary school cohorts, but frequently there are few other spaces available. March is when approvals come out.

**Parent Question:** Do we know anything about what will happen with Grad this year?

**Answer:** Still no news. The Chan Centre and the Fairmont are still booked, but they are also planning for a virtual event – and everything in between. Feedback from last year has been gathered, and will be looked at, however ultimately it is all about what the PHO safety regulations allow for.

**Dry Grad** – also still no firm plans. Like Grad, they are looking at a variety of options, but nothing can be definitively planned until closer to the time/when clear directions are given as to safety.

## PAC reports

### **Mural**

- Last meeting the school gave a brief presentation about a mural they are planning to have created on the school building. The City of Richmond has approved a grant of \$8000, and the school was hoping the PAC would be interested in contributing to the balance. The artist chosen has said it will be \$17,000 to create the mural, and that leaves a \$9000 balance.
- After looking at the finances, the PAC executive recommended we contribute \$4000.

**Question:** Where would the \$4000 come from?

**Answer:** From the Gaming funds PAC receives each year. While there are very specific rules around what you can spend these funds on, the mural would fit that criteria.

- Currently we have \$7262.34 of preapproved club funds that haven't been spent, and typically we fund \$3500 in scholarships, and give DAG \$4000.
- Proposal to carry over \$10,000 to next year's budget. This is significantly more than we usually do - usually we only carry over around \$2000 on average - however there are concerns that next year may see a drop in gaming funds thanks to COVID-19. If schools are able to open more fully in the new school year, we will likely see many more clubs come back, which draw on our funds. The goal is to try to have enough money in the bank to fund clubs like we do in a typical year in case our gaming funds are lower than usual. Right now, if we pay out all the preapproved club funds, the DAG and scholarship funds, AND the \$4000 for the mural, we would be left with a balance of \$9,910.54 to take into the 2021/2022 school year.

**Question:** Is there a cap on the number of years you can carry gaming funds over?

**Jon:** yes, 3 years

\*\* a few parents noted that it is 2 years, however a search of the regulations confirms it is 3 years now.

**Question:** Is the mural part of the outdoor classroom (as it will be on the wall that faces the garden/classroom area)?

**Answer:** No, it is completely separate.

Jane added that goal of whatever design they choose for the mural, is to reflect the school and community connectivity, and reflect the PRIDE matrix of the school.

Jon noted there is a good chance that not all the club funds requested this year will actually be spent, and there is the possibility of another donation towards the mural in around May.

Voting on the following occurred, all were carried:

Scholarships (a yearly expenditure) -\$3500

DAG (Dry After Grad) - \$4000

Mural donation - \$4000

### **Parent email**

- The executive shared a parent email that we received: the parent has 2 children at McMath and had been concerned in the fall when a project for class involved building a model, and the criteria for an A or B meant that some expensive materials needed to be bought. The parent has concerns that this creates an unfair expectation on families, particularly low-income families. She had wondered if there was anyway to create a fundraiser committee that might purchase items, so all students had access to the same items.
- Jane said families need to know that there is always funding at the school if finances are a challenge. No student should miss out based on money. She was also concerned that families felt that marks would be based on cost – as long as the learning outcome of the project is met (i.e., the model of a cell or a diorama of a play scene), the actual materials used should not matter.
- A concern was brought forward that students may not always tell their families about trips, projects, etc. as they don't want to add stress to their families. Jane said that the school works with the students to help them learn to self advocate, and typically this is not a problem.

**Final Question:** Are the microwaves currently available for student use?

**Answer:** Yes! There are several all over the school, and all are available. While the gr 8s and 9s eat in classrooms, they may leave to go buy lunch from the cafeteria area, or warm up a lunch.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm