

Minutes - December 8 PAC Meeting

Joyce Huang, PAC Co-Chair

- Welcomed and introduced the new PAC Co-Chair, Simon Sun .
- Simon Sun said he is the parent of 2 boys at McKechnie, Oliver and Leo. As a family, they have been at McKechnie almost 5 years and it is a great pleasure for him to be part of PAC. As Co-Chair he hopes to help to facilitate communication between parents, the principal and staff.

Principal's Report - Ankie Carswell, McKechnie Principal

- **Enrollment** - 269 students are currently enrolled. 57 Students are on Option 4 (delayed entry). Entry dates have changed. The new dates are December 7, January 19 and March 1.
- **Snow closure** - If there is a significant amount of snow, parents should monitor media outlets for updates on school closures. They shouldn't call the media, the district or the school, which can't handle the call load.
- **Staffing** - Ms. Haylee Varty MacDonald as Teacher-Librarian position. Mrs. Lynda McKenzie is covering for Ms. Logie who is on maternity leave.
- **Public Health/VCH Covid Positive Case Notification Process** - Communication chain explained for if there is a positive Covid test for a school community member. To summarize: VCH is automatically notified and notifies individual, performs contact tracing to determine who they were in close contact with. If no close contacts at school, no school follow up. If close contacts at school, VCH contacts directly to ask them to self-isolate; lower risk contacts may be asked to self-monitor. School notifies remainder of school who has not been exposed about the case. VCH posts school on school exposure website and continues to monitor the class/division.

Question: Is it new protocol that the school notifies the remainder of the school?

Ankie replied that it is not new. Sometimes the letter does come very late (she herself had received a letter around Day 8.) Contact tracing takes a lot longer in big school and delay in notification happens because it takes time to test, get results, then notify.

Direct Drive Update:

- Jennie Mickelson reported that \$23, 170 was raised through Direct Drive this year. She said the results are great because they were not sure what to expect in terms of participation. The original goal was \$20 000, so McKechnie families definitely rose to the challenge, with about 64% of families contributing.
- Items on wish list that school can now purchase include new musical instruments, as students can't currently sing, and help with setting up an outdoor classroom at 60th and Maple. Large stones and a teaching podium will be added, and a portable white board and cushions for stones procured. Installation ETA is mid January. Other items to be purchased include digital resources (Where in the World, Science News, Canadian Reader, Digital library overdrive and Sora, Gearing Up and Raz Kids.) Ankie noted that the teachers are very appreciative of Direct Drive because they have access to so many resources. Funding will also support Distance Education.

Treasurer Update-Geoff Kennedy, Treasurer

- Normally PAC relies on hot lunches to fund a lot of expenditures, but given there's no hot lunches, there is no revenue. At the same time, some of the PAC regular costs won't be incurred. Gaming grant of \$5460 has been received. That plus a carry over of \$2700 from last year's gaming grant will be enough to cover an alternative graduation event for the Grade 7s, and increased staff recognition.

PAC will need to change signatories to add new PAC executive members at the Bank.

Upcoming PAC Activities:

- **Holiday Hampers**

Angie Kovats said contributions are down this year and hamper coordinators are not pushing families too much as there are lots of donation demands at once this year. Donations at \$1600. PAC usually contributes \$500 and total donation usually amounts to \$3000. 10 families at Xpex Elementary are supported. Additionally, have letters out to local grocery stores (Safeway) to donate gift cards for McKechnie families in need.

PAC Exec agreed to cover the difference to make up the \$3000 total contribution to Xpex.

Ankie added that all the usual annual McKechnie winter festive events would not be happening. No gingerbread house decorating, no centrepieces, no winter concert. A full school assembly on Dec. 17 will be holiday themed. She will read the Polar Express. She has been going over different winter celebrations people observe.

- **Family photo night**

Ankie had heard from the Vancouver School District that all individual and class photo taking sessions were still on hold. She said she will wait until the end of January to contact the photographers about their safety protocols, and then run it by the District.

Open Floor

Ankie said she is trying to figure out how to have meaningful interaction between the classes. Intermediate and Primaries aren't seeing each other and she feels the students are really missing that school community feeling. She said that she's trying to make a school wide "wordle" to post on the wall. Every class comes up with a selection of words (what McKechnie means to them) which will be posted on the wordle for all classes to see.

Karen Chen suggested virtual meetings, such as two different classes taking the opportunity to do virtual get togethers. Ankie said she would bring it up at a staff meeting.

Teacher Susanna Metcalfe said that for Halloween/Thanksgiving she had an artist visit virtually to do some art with the kids. She said a similar activity could work really well as a shared activity with another class. She said she would bring up with primary teachers.

Question: Progress on Rainbow Walk? Nothing further to report as it is currently too wet to paint.

Question: Whether it's a VSB restriction that you have to wait for Coastal Health to do notification before informing the school community of Covid?

Ankie confirmed that the VSB has been clear that Coastal Health has the responsibility to inform, and it also keeps the practice consistent within a district of 103 schools.

Question: How is new field holding up? It has resulted in less mud, but grass not faring as well as hoped. The top layer is soggy and grass rips when walked on. Ankie said that over Spring Break she's hoping to overseed it again.

She went on to note that intermediate students would have dance in February, badminton in March and then ultimate frisbee in April. Primaries will have tennis, gymnastics and dance as well.

Motion to pass June 16, 2020 PAC AGM Minutes

Moved: Angie Kovats **Seconded:** Sarah Picciotto

Motion Carried

Motion to pass September 28 2020 PAC Minutes

Moved: Sarah Picciotto **Seconded:** Simon Sun

Motion Carried

Next meeting is scheduled for January 26 at 7pm.