

## **Draft Minutes - October 5, 2021 PAC Meeting**

### **Erin Yorke and Simon Sun - Welcome to the 2021/2022 School Year**

Erin Yorke welcomed Principal Singh to his first PAC Meeting and introduced herself as parent of son in Grade 5 at McKechnie, and a daughter who had recently graduated from McKechnie on to Magee. She welcomed parents to the new school year at McKechnie and thanked them for attending, pointing out that as parents/caregivers we are all members of the PAC. The point of coming together as a PAC is to build on the school community by connecting with others. Even during COVID, we still want to build and foster school community and spirit. This year, we'll start at the classroom level and hopefully be able to progress to some larger group gatherings later. We are also part of District PAC (and thus connected to other PACs in the city and province). Dates of upcoming meetings are posted on PAC website and you're encouraged to attend as many as you can. Most PAC communications will come through email and the Mailchimp system. Maybe 50% of families so far have filled out the "Google Docs PAC Contact Form" sent out, so please fill it out. If you've received no emails by end of October, let one of us know via the PAC email. PAC does a lot of fundraising and works with school to determine priorities. The major fundraiser is Direct Drive (families contribute what they are able and generally close to \$20 000 is raised). In past, funds raised have purchased playground equipment, smartboards, laptops, ebooks and physical books. McKechnie is a small and still tight community, even over the past couple of years with Covid. Please consider volunteering as it helps build the school community. If interested, go to website and look under volunteering.

**Email:** [yourmckechniepac@gmail.com](mailto:yourmckechniepac@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.mckechniepac.ca](http://www.mckechniepac.ca)

### **Michael Singh - McKechnie School Principal's Update Email: [mrsingh@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:mrsingh@vsb.bc.ca)**

Mr. Singh said that the school start up has gone smoothly. He thanked parents for coming to PAC meeting, and thanked PAC in general for all the great things PAC does and contributes.

**Traffic** - at pick up and drop off is a challenge and tends to be a little hectic and chaotic. Traffic should move around the school one-way, clockwise from front of school on 60th. Kindergarten area on 60th is getting clogged up and so people should park a little farther away and not right in that zone. Also, people should follow speed limits. Crossing guard just got trained this past week and will start Thursday at the corner of 60th and Maple. Students should practice crossing at the cross walk and not random parts of the street. Some traffic police officers will come by one morning this week or next to provide some presence.

**Sports Teams** - Xcountry has started and is open to all grades. Senior Boys Soccer also up and running and team practices Wednesday after school. Process for setting up a team is usually to gauge student interest first, then look at finding coaches. Only 2 girls signed up for soccer, hence no team. Parents are welcome to help coach. Let Mr. Singh know of your interest. He and Ms. Lum-Tong will coach volleyball and he will coach basketball.

Volleyball - starts in November

Basketball - starts in January

Teams usually consist of just Grade 6 and 7's but Grade 5's are allowed to play this year because there's such a small group of Grade 7's.

Junior Boy (grade 6) - Play Monday

Junior Girl (") - Play Tuesday

Senior Boy (grade 7) - Play Wednesday

Senior Girl (") - Play Thursday

Question about sports teams for younger grades?

-It may be possible to do lunchtime sports in the future, right now focus is mainly on restarting the usual sports program.

**Lunch format** changed today so that at 12:25 all students are going outside to play (after eating lunch inside). Recess is still segregated (primary/intermediate). The new format helps in terms of supervision as all supervision can happen inside and then outside. It will make hot lunch delivery easier too.

**Terry Fox-** A success. Each class ran with their buddy class around the school. Humanitarian club is running the "toonie for Terry" campaign, raising money for Cancer research and has a goal of \$500 for the school. People can still contribute through their child's classroom teacher. Donation option will also be put on School Cash Online.

**In person chess club** - on hold for now. Hopefully as year moves forward we can bring it back.

#### **Geoff Kennedy - Budget Update**

- For the 2020 – 2021 school year, the PAC ran a deficit of \$5,697 out of its general account. At beginning of September, PAC has approximately \$4,000 remaining in the general account Gaming Grant funds of \$2,964 to be carried forward to the 2021 – 2022 school year, plus whatever Gaming Grant funds we receive in October.
- PAC was still able to fund most of its programs, despite not having any revenue from Hot Lunch or Pizza Lunch. This was achievable because PAC had built up some reserves from previous years, and Grade 7 Grad trip to Strathcona didn't happen for 2 consecutive years
- Hoping to re-start Pizza Lunch program, and Parents' unspent balances from previous years will be reflected in MunchaLunch system
- In December, Geoff will report on hot lunch income and whether we've received the Gaming Grant. Money from Gaming grant can be used on eligible expenses such as Saleema Noon Sexual Health presentation and Strathcona contributions.

#### **Leah Collings - Volunteer Update**

Leah introduced herself as the parent of a daughter in Kindergarten and son in Grade 5. She said she was really pleased by the number of volunteers so far. Roles that still need filling:

**Family photo night coordinator** (for February,) **Grad Committee Coordinator** (usually a Grade 7 parent,) **Yearbook volunteer photographers** (take pictures at school events like Halloween and Terry Fox,) and two **Yearbook editors** to assist the lead editors. Class parents are all in place and should be communicating soon with families.

### **Jenny Mickelson - Coordinator of Direct Drive**

Jenny introduced herself as the parent of two children at McKechnie. She explained that Direct Drive is a fundraiser, an “ask” of parents, with the goal of freeing parents up from going door-to-door selling chocolate or calendars. A wish list is created by teachers at school and in the past, funds have gone to purchase music instruments, laptops and ipads and also support the Grade 7 trip to Strathcona. PAC is running it a little earlier this year, over the final two weeks of October. Last year close to \$24 000 was raised. Goal is to have 100% of families contribute, any amount, with \$100 the goal. Families will be able to contribute through School Cash Online.

### **Hot Lunch Update**

Erin Yorke noted that we’re back with C’est Mon Cafe. They are experienced, serving healthy meals in 25 different schools. Hot Lunch Coordinator Tiffany Lee researched a few different vendors, looking at those able to provide individually packaged lunches and C’est Mon still seemed best. Parent volunteers will deliver meals to classrooms. Students asked to bring utensils and a snack and own drink/water bottle. For sake of simplicity, there will be no milk or chips to start. Will check in at end of October and see how one day/week is working and whether there is comfort adding another day to the week. This could possibly be a pizza day, which brings in a bit more revenue. If we do add a pizza lunch, Grade 7’s could potentially help out, as some of the revenue goes to their Strathcona trip. She noted that pizza lunch too will be individualized.

It was noted that Kindergarten kids take longer to eat, so teachers would appreciate it if volunteers should get lunches to the K’s first.

### **Questions/Comments**

Question as to whether a grade 3 student could join the school band?

- Band program run by Magee Band Teacher is open to Grade 5,6 and 7 McKechnie students.

Question about language learning opportunities at McKechnie?

- Right now, grade 5-7’s are learning French.

Question about whether parents could attend the winter concert?

- Things are constantly changing, but at this time, probably not.

**Moved:** Simon Sun **Seconded** Joyce Huang: to pass the June 15, 2021 PAC Minutes  
**Motion Carried**

**Next Meeting will be held Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00pm.**