

Minutes - May 4, 2021 PAC Meeting

Joyce Huang, PAC Co-Chair

- Welcomed parents to the meeting.

Principal's Update - Ankie Carswell, McKechnie Principal

- **Staffing and School Schedule** - See May Newsletter. One certain change is a new timetable. School Day to be extended by 3 minutes to make up for a day at the start of the school year (Tuesday, September 7) for VSB mandated anti-racism and non-discrimination training. First day for students will be Wednesday, September 8. Also, 20 minute recess again (up from 15). Lunch break unchanged.
- **School Fees** - Next year, PE programs (like Ultimate), workbooks, digital subscriptions (like Athletics), and Field Studies will follow past practice and be charged as they occur throughout the school year.
- **School Calendar** now posted to the website. This year PAC Meeting dates included, and welcome back social (hopefully we can do it!) Staff are excited to do hybrid meet the teacher/parent social.
- **Sports Day/Fun Day** activities will happen within cohorts this year. Intermediates will go to Maple Grove park May 21 (though one class may walk to Fraser River Park). Primary classes will use school field. Each teacher will communicate with parents about the day. Thanks to PAC for donating treats.
- **Building Classroom Communities** - Info included in Newsletter; can print off form and submit to office. Parents should not request a specific teacher. Not all parent requests regarding friends, etc. can be honoured as there are a lot of factors to consider.
- **Mrs. Carswell leaving McKechnie** - After 4 years, she has been assigned to Lord Nelson Elementary. Our new school principal will be Michael Singh (currently VP at Trafalgar). He formerly taught at David Lloyd George so knows the area. He is excited to come to McKechnie and will attend the next PAC meeting in June.

Questions/Comments arising from Principal's Report:

Many parents expressed how sorry they were to hear that Ankie would be leaving McKechnie! Congratulations to Ankie and all our best wishes for her new assignment at Lord Nelson. We greatly appreciated the time she was with us and she'll certainly be missed.

Budget Update - Geoff Kennedy

The \$900 for the Saleema Noon Sexual Health workshop came out of gaming account. We will be spending about \$70 per student for graduation, for a total of just under \$4000. PAC should definitely use the gaming account (still have \$3000 left over from last year and almost all \$5400 from this year's grant). Should think of some other way to spend as there is a time limit.

Moved: Jennifer Ramos Seconded: Joyce Huang to pass the March 9 2021 PAC Minutes
Motion Carried

General Questions/Comments

Joyce Huang reminded parents that the **Saleema Noon Sexual Health** workshop for parents was coming up Monday at 6:30. Link to be in May Newsletter and a reminder sent Monday. VSB recently ended the **School Liaison Program**. At McKechnie, the School Liaison Officer was Constable Ben Wong-Moon. VSB says they will be supporting a new relationship with police services. We're not sure how that will look.

If anyone wants to help out with **PAC**, please come to next meeting(the **AGM**). It would be great to get some new faces involved. **District PAC** too needs representation from McKechnie.

Picture Day - Done by noon; everything went smoothly. Held outside in the undercover area.

Volunteers allowed again for outdoor activities only (protocols still need to be followed).

Teachers may reach out for FUN Day, but probably not. Probably just staff will be extra help.

Around the school - Lots of classes doing hands-on activities. Project Management boards, papier mache. Urban Safari coming, and virtual Children's festival happening. Gearing Up will happen in June. Teachers doing Minecraft, Stop Motion; interesting digital productions.

Grade 7's negotiated such that 3 pairs go to Choices at a time for their lunches.

Grade 7 Graduation

Ankie said that last year staff put together a video to replace the procession. In it, every student "passed the towel" and reappeared with a change of outfit. They would like to do something like that again, but with parent assistance (maybe collecting the videos). This year will be easier because students are on site. Last year Mr. D put in a huge amount of work.

Parents handled Grad gifts last year. Students received a caricature, dog tags from school, cookies as well as a gift card to White Spot (instead of grad dinner).

Grade 7's gift to school was the Rainbow walk (hasn't been painted yet).

Parents can still help. Ankie suggested they connect with the Grad committee and Mr. D, decide first on format, then connect with class parents to collect videos.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm. **Next Meeting will be held Tuesday June 15, 7pm.**