

A.R. MacNeill Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Executive: Borg Chan (Chairperson), Evelina Rubinchik (Secretary), Dayanthi Adihetty (Treasurer), Tom Wells (Incentive representative).

Administrator: Ms. Marcy Timmins – Principal.

Parents: Dale March, Stephanie Booth, Arnel Albos, Rosalia Perez, Yokin Tsui

1. The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7: 00 pm.
Introductions.
2. Approval of May 2016 meeting minutes: Motioned by Dale. Seconded by Dayanthi.
3. Approval of agenda for September 2016 meeting: Motioned by Evelina. Seconded by Tom.
4. Administration Report – Ms. M. Timmins
 - This is a second year for Ms. Timmins at MacNeill. Two new teachers joined the school (Math and French; both are from Hugh Boyd School).
 - Enrollment increased significantly during the summer (up to 785) and several blocks were added but still less students are at school as compared to the last year.
 - New timetables were distributed on Mon, Sept 18.
 - Thu, Sept 21 is Parent Meeting for Grade 12 parents. Grade 11 parents are welcome to attend. Councilors and career education expert will be talking to parents.
 - Clubs Day will be held at the end of Sept or the beginning of Oct.
 - Temporary Secondary Learning Centre will be set at MacNeill this year where students with learning needs will receive help (It is temporary as the Richmond School Board is still working with school trustees, considering making it permanent).
 - Geography and History classes will be combined this year due to the reduced enrollment as the school intends to continue offer non-science credits this year.
 - The school performance plan has been prepared. This year teachers are more involved in its preparation. Also more communications with parents are planned.
 - Teachers requests for the Gaming fund will be done by the time of Oct PAC meeting (Oct 18). Marcy recommended that teachers to be held more accountable for their requests and if funds are not spent by a pre-determined deadline (e.g. by Dec/Jan), the remaining fund will be re-distributed to other groups.
 - Richmond Mental Health can make a presentation to parents, including problems related to social media. Targeting Nov meeting (Nov 15) for this presentation.
 - Marcy explained a concept of Collaboration Time. It takes place 9 times/year, with school starting at 9:45 am. During this time, teachers get together working on very specific goals. Classroom time is not reduced.
 - Sept 23 is a Pro-D day.

5. Chairpersons Report – Borg Chan

- PAC presentations were discussed. Examples of last year presentations include MacNeill AP Program, first responders group, school library, POWER program and addiction. Agreed to have AP presentation in January. Marcy suggested not to have POWER and library presentations this year but introduced new topics instead. Presentations on social media and healthy eating habits were suggested by parents. Marcy also recommended presentations on drug addiction, especially related to a new opioid fentanyl which is a big issue now.
- Agreed that there will be no presentation in October as the PAC meeting will be focused on discussion about the distribution of the Gaming Funds.
- Borg informed parents about Learning and the Brain conference that will take place in the morning of Saturday, January 21, 2017 in MacNeill and encouraged parents to attend. This is a free event.
- PAC meeting minutes are now posted on the school website. Another useful source of information is MacNeill Parent Week at a Glance newsletter.
- RDPA meetings (Oct 4, 2016) will be focused on school closures.
- Fundraising options were discussed. In the past they included family photo, coupon books and others but they did not result in good participation. Marcy indicated that PAC does not need to do a lot of fundraising as different clubs and Dry Grad will be actively fundraising. Dayanthi indicated that last 5 years there were no additional funds in the general account hence fundraising may be useful. M&M Meat fundraiser as well as Acroyd Boston Pizza were suggested as easy options. Borg indicated that direct donation to school can be also done (tax deductible).

6. Treasurers Report – Dayanthi Adhihetty

General account: \$280.45

Gaming account: \$5,597.01 (invoiced were only submitted in Sept for approved expenses)

Dry Grad account: update needed

- Dayanthi explained that each student gets \$20/student from Gaming Funds. At the beginning of the year teachers submit their requests and PAC approves them based on funds available. Funds can only be used for extra curriculum activities.

7. Incentive Representative - Tom Wells.

- Tue Sep 13 was Incentive Welcome BBQ with a lot of parents and students taking part. Approximately 25 parents participated in first parent group meeting.
- A lot of activities are starting, with Grade 8-9 going to Squamish camp and Grade 10 to Marine Centre on Vancouver Island. Currently there are 26 students in Grade 8, 27 in Grade 9 and 20 in Grade 10.

8. Dry Grad Representative

- No update. Last year representatives will make presentation to this year Dry Grad team.

9. New PAC Executives

- Stephanie Booth agreed to be Treasurer. Dayanthi will be mentoring her. Rosalia Perez will be co-secretary with Evelina Rubinchik. The new executives were supported by all attendance.

10. Dates of 2016-2017 Monthly PAC meetings

- October 18th, November 15th, January 17th, February 21st, April 18th and May 16th (AGM). Meetings will be held in the school library. Agreed to start the presentation (if available) at 7 pm and the monthly meeting to follow afterwards.

11. Meeting adjourned 8:25 pm

Secretary: Evelina Rubinchik

Reviewed by: Borg Chan