

A.R. MacNeill Parent Advisory Council
MacNeill School Library
Tuesday, September 18, 2018
7:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Yokin Tsui (Treasurer), Tom Wells (Secretary), Dale March (Member at Large), Miles Lozinsky, Rex and Aloha Lozada, Cedi Chun, Aspi Ustad

Administrator: Ms. Marcy Timmins (Principal)

1. Welcome & Introductions – quick roundtable welcoming everyone to the meeting
2. Call to Order – Tom called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm
3. Approval of the Minutes for May 15, 2018 – the minutes from the last PAC meeting and AGM were reviewed and approved with one minor change – the numbering of items was repeated for one entry and corrected. Minutes motioned for approval by Dale; seconded by Tom. All in favour.
4. Approval and/or Additions to the Agenda for September 18 meeting:
Dale – wants to discuss student drop-off at front of school as he has some concerns
Yokin, would like to discuss what to do with unclaimed PAC scholarships

Both items added to the meeting agenda and will be discussed under Other Business.

5. Nominations, elections and confirmation of the 2018-19 PAC Executives:

As the slate for 2018/2019 Executive was not confirmed at the May 15, 2018 meeting, this item was discussed and confirmed at this meeting. The following Executive positions are affirmed by the members for 2018-2019. Motioned by Dale and Seconded by Aloha; All in favour:

Chair – Dale March who will also attend RDPA meetings;
Co-Chair – Tom Wells;
Treasurer – Yokin Tsui;
Secretary – Tom Wells;
Dry Grad Representatives – Miles Lozinsky and Aloha Lozada

6. Administration Report – Ms. Marcy Timmins

- My School Day – a new school online agenda is available to students and parents and can be accessed on smart phones or other electronic devices. MacNeill is one of a few schools in Richmond District to try this as an alternative to traditional paper agenda books this year. It can push notifications out from the school and teachers,

etc. The school issued hard copy agendas to students who wanted them and they were provided to all Grade 8 students. Download instructions on the program were handed out to the parents at the meeting.

- There are 750 students registered this year at MacNeill. This is about 10 more than last year. Also 12 new teachers were added to the school including a new business teacher in Marketing and Entrepreneurship.
- There have also been additions to the Support staff and EAs.
- MacNeill has four distinct programs – high school regular program, a life skills program, Aspen learning centre – 10 students, 20 adults; Incentive program with around 70 students in Grades 8-10 which has 3 new staff and 2 teachers teaching science and math part time in Incentive as well as in the regular school program.
- School Guidance Counselors are Joan Cantwell (students with surnames from A-La); Lai-Z – Dawn Pasin (students with surnames from Lai-Z).
- After school – Ms. Padmanabhan is keen to help support math learning and is sponsoring a drop-in program after school. About 15-20 students are coming already.
- Learning Resource Centre – is a resource available throughout the day. It is a resource block for some students and provides extra help for students who need it including a quiet area to write tests, etc.
- School Messenger System – Synvoice is used to push messages to parents on important upcoming events and messages can be sent by phone, email, etc. depending on contact information on file.
- Week at a Glance – is available on the school website (<https://macneill.sd38.bc.ca>) and is a useful resource for parents as to what is going on at the school during the week as well as highlighted upcoming events.
- School Fees – the District has introduced an online pay system for payment of school fees. A link is at the bottom of the school website but it will take some time to roll out all the functions of the new system. The school will send home hardcopy invoices at the end of October with the student until the system is fully adopted.
- Report Cards – Term 1 report cards will be sent out on December 7; will be online but there will also be hardcopy issued as well for the last time. Instructions will be sent out for parents to go online and download report cards and parents will also be able to see attendance records. The program, My Education BC, will allow regular marking updates to be made possible but teachers may not utilize this function to begin with because of differential weighting of marks/assignments that may make interim results a bit confusing. Term 2 – will be issued online March 15 (before Spring Break) and Term 3 results will be issued online at the end of the school year.
- Grade 12 Parents Meeting – will be held Wednesday, September 19 at 7:00 pm in the Library. Presentations will be made on how to prepare for post-secondary life; available websites and online resources, how to register for post-secondary institutions, scholarships and bursaries. Dry Grad representative will also be there to promote the end of year celebration and how parents can volunteer to help.

- Clubs Day – will be held on Wednesday, September 26 in the Lounge area – booths of the different clubs will allow students to find opportunities to participate in a variety of pursuits that may interest them.
- Terry Fox Run - will be on Friday, Sept. 28th for students to participate.
- Meet the Teacher Night – This is an opportunity for parents to meet their student’s teachers on Thursday, September 27th starting at 6:30 pm.
- Pro-D day – a Professional Development Day for teachers will be on Friday, September 21st, with early dismissal at 2:00pm on Thursday. Teachers will be exploring ways to enhance the social and intellectual engagement of students with focus on Advisory, POWER and core competencies in the new school curriculum.
- Numeracy Assessment – one of two provincial exams; Grade 11 students wrote this back in June. The MacNeill results were ok – and Grade 11 or 12 students can re-write if they like if they wish to improve their scores. The MacNeill results were above the Provincial average and a little below the Richmond School District average. The exam is very language based and there are lots of ELL students at MacNeill. Exam results are not a barrier to graduation.
- Topics for future PAC meetings – PAC meetings are an opportunity to bring in speakers on topics of interest to parents and we will discuss at future meetings what topics parents may want to see this year. In the past we have had presentations on online safety and literacy – how to be respectful in social media. This is a topic of interest to students who are seeking help on being safe in our electronically connected world and this has been an ongoing conversation with students in Advisory. What are the steps followed once an issue is raised by a student? Student emotional health is the priority; RCMP is brought in to assist if needed to chat with those involved. The school had a guest speaker on the topic last year (Jesse Miller) that was well attended. Other topics have included Library resources, Business or Athletic club presentations, First Aid response program at the school, etc.
- The Grad Boat Cruise is going ahead on Wednesday, September 26 at 5:00 pm – parent permission forms and fees should now all be in.

7. Chairperson Report:

- Richmond District Parents Advisory (RDPA) – the next meeting is on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Richmond School Board Office at 7811 Granville Avenue.

8. Treasurer Report – Yokin Tsui:

- The application status for Gaming funds is in progress; we should hear by end of September what MacNeill will get. Funding is based on student enrollment (750 in current year) and \$20/student. We will discuss disbursement of funds in our October PAC meeting.
- Balance of accounts as of September 1, 2018 are:
 - General Account: \$280.45
 - Gaming Account: \$4,478.35
 - Dry Grad Account: \$4,746.44
- Need to sort out the signing authority with the bank given the new year. Dale will initiate discussion with Coast Capital on next steps.

9. Program Updates:

- Incentive – no representative was present.
- Dry Grad:
 - will be present at the Grade 12 Parents Meeting on Wednesday, September 19th to explain the event and seek volunteers.
 - Dinner/Dance and after Grad party will be on Thursday, June 27, 2019.
 - First organizational meeting will be on Friday, Sept 28th at 7:00 pm in the School lounge or library.

10. Other Business:

- Dale raised some concerns about the student drop-off at the front of the school. There have been notices issued by the school requesting that students be dropped off at the South end by the gyms. However, there are still signs up indicating the old drop-off area at the front of the school and this is causing some confusion, congestion and conflicts – buses can't park in front of school with cars parked. Marcy will attend to this and get the signage corrected.
- Dale would like information on First Aid and Emergency supplies/protocols; Marcy will provide a contents list on the red First Aid bags at the next PAC meeting. This item has come up at RDPA meetings. First Responders have access to first aid equipment in the office
- Dale noted that once again that school movie licences will be available through the RDPA which provides participating schools the ability to save on this cost through a larger pooled discount.
- Yokin noted that there are three MacNeill PAC scholarships from June 2018 that have not been claimed. \$2,000 was put aside for four school scholarships. Marcy will ask Vice Principal, Herj Ghaug for the names of those awarded and she will have those recipients contacted by October 15th to remind them how to claim their award.

11. Adjournment at 8:52 pm

Next meeting: will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Library.