

A.R. MacNeill Parent Advisory Council Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Tues. Sept. 22, 2020
7:00 pm

Present: Dale March (Past-Chair), Yokin Tsui (Co-Treasurer), Alyson Cho (Co-Secretary), Herj Ghaug (Vice-Principal), Marcy Timmins (Principal), Nancy Horan, Nelson Ho, Winnie Ho, Annie Varghese (Vice-Principal), Prashanth Narasimha Murthy, Angela Ng, Sanders Mah, Ly Lan, Naoko Watanabe, Luo, Jenny, Aspi Ustad, Long Vo

1. Welcome and Introductions. So nice to see so many parents in attendance!
2. Call to order 7:07 pm
3. Approval of the on-line via ZOOM minutes of June 9, 2020
 - Draft minutes were reviewed with no changes noted
 - Yokin motioned for approval; Alyson seconded. Minutes were approved.
4. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda
 - There were some additions to the Agenda which are discussed in New Business.
5. Nominations, elections and confirmation of the 2020 - 2021 PAC Executives:
RDPA Rep, Co-Treasurer, Co-Chair, DAG Chair:
 - In June, Pooja volunteered to be Chair if someone would be Co-Chair; Aspi volunteered to be Co-Chair
 - In June, Adriana Pinot volunteered to be Co-Secretary and Simon Kok volunteered to be RDPA Representative; Marcy will contact them to confirm.
 - Angela Ng volunteered to be Co-Treasurer.
 - Dry After Grad Chair is needed but can probably wait a little longer; Marcy will be reaching out to parents of Grade 12 students soon.
6. RDPA meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 (to be confirmed) at 7:00 p.m. at the Richmond School Board office at 7811 Granville Avenue. Most likely via Zoom. Each school in the district has a PAC representative, but any parent is welcome. Various topics are discussed.
7. Administration Report—Ms. Marcy Timmins
 - Ms. Timmins reviewed for us the Orientation that students attended on either September 10th or 11th. At the Orientations, staff outlined changes that have been made to the school routines, the importance of the health declaration, as well as the specified entrance doors and times. Every day, students are met at the doors by administrators with hand sanitizer spray; students are wearing masks in hallways and often in class as well. Students are doing a great job with new routines, including social distancing. Staff occasionally use pool noodles as a visual reminder to help students remember to keep their distance when their masks are off (such as when eating lunch).

- Ms. Timmins explained how MacNeill is using the quarter system. It was challenging to re-do timetables that had initially taken five months to set up. MacNeill is keeping the Day 1 Day 2 system but they zigzag morning/afternoon classes; this was important at MacNeill because it allows students in apprenticeship programs to continue with those programs. They have also prioritized keeping learning support blocks with academic blocks for students. Teachers can refer students to the Learning Support Centre if needed.
- Ms. Timmins explained the cohort system. Staff have tried to keep students in same cohort for the full year, going beyond the provincial requirement that they be in the same cohort for 10 weeks. They are also keeping class sizes to 30 maximum. Unfortunately, some Grade 9s could not get their chosen electives within the cohort constraints. They prioritized electives for students in Grades 10-12, since some of these electives are requirements for entering post-secondary programs. Since Grades 10-12 are able to do some on-line learning, that gave more flexibility for their schedules.
- When students are within their cohorts (in-class) they are allowed to remove their masks, but that depends on people's comfort levels; many choose to keep their masks on. When outside cohort (for Band or ELL classes for example), there are fewer students in class, physical distancing is prioritized, and students wear their masks and sometimes face shields.
- Regarding school teams, no inter-school competitions are allowed at this time. Coaches could set up skill-building opportunities possibly in the future. Therefore, we are still going to have Club Day with clubs on TEAMS; still focusing on POWER acronym: Positive attitude, Ownership, We not me, Excellence, Respect.
- For the month of September, Grade 8 and 9 students have been eating lunch in the Gym; however, beginning October 1st they will be eating in classrooms.
- Students in Grades 10-12 will have access to an online counselling appointment-making program. (School Appointments program like we use for scheduling Parent-Teacher Conferences). More information about this will be emailed next week.
- Approximately 45 students in Grades 8-9 are currently attending Richmond Virtual School until February 2021, then transitioning back into MacNeill. In February, Orientation will be repeated for those students. If students stay in RVS past Feb., they are not guaranteed a spot at MacNeill but Ms. Timmins assures they will still have a spot for next year if you are in our catchment area.
- We have approximately 750 students
- Thursday, Sept. 24th was scheduled to be Meet The Teacher Night; this year it will occur via email, Zoom/TEAMS meeting, or video outlining the class set-up. Each teacher was given the choice as to how to communicate with parents.

8. Treasurer Report—Yokin Tsui:

Our accounts are at Coast Capital, and these are our balances as of September 1, 2020:

- General Account \$335.17
- Gaming \$5,238.08
- Dry Grad Account \$4,208.18
- We are waiting to receive the Gaming Grant notification by Sept 30th
- We have no outstanding reimbursements.

9. Incentive Update—Incentive is running in its own cohort for Grade 8 and 9 students; Grade 10s are integrated more with the main school; the bell schedule is aligned to facilitate this. Incentive Staff participate enthusiastically in school events. We are optimistic that some outdoor education will be able to take place.
Dry Grad Update - TBA

10. Other Business—Dale March (Past Chair):

- Please note that our current Constitution and Bylaws are on the school website as a PDF file.
- Dale will be resigning as a PAC Sponsor. We also need to transfer signing authority from Dale to someone else. PAC banking is done through Coast Capital; so we need someone who is a Coast Capital Member, or is willing to become a Coast Capital member, given that anyone can open a CC account with just a \$5 deposit. Aspi Ustad our new Co-Chair has volunteered to be the new Sponsor and will assume signing authority.
- We issued a cheque in June for \$54 for UBC Science Olympics, but the cheque was not received by the student, so we must issue a stop payment on that cheque then write a new cheque. Doing so will incur a bank fee of \$18. Alyson motioned to issue stop payment and write another cheque; Angela seconded.
- We need to make a decision regarding whether to join BCCPAC (BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils). BCCPAC is the provincial body representing all parents to the Ministry of Education. An annual Membership costs \$75 and must come from General Account (cannot use gaming account). A paid membership is valid from September 1st to August 31st each year. We have not joined BCCPAC in the past, however the uncertainty caused recently by Covid-19 makes membership seem beneficial; as well, they provide scholarships to students whose schools are members. Alyson motioned to join BCCPAC; Aspi seconded the motion.
- Question from a parent about homework: how much homework/studying should students be doing? Ms. Timmins replied that it depends on the subject area; in some classes most of the work may be best accomplished in-class; other subjects may require much more time spent at home.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm

Next meeting 7:00 pm Tuesday, October 20th on Zoom. It will be advertised through MyEd and MySchoolDay app.