1. **R. MacNeill Parent Advisory Council Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 20th, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Zoom**

**Present:** Pooja Kalsi (Chair), Marcy Timmins (Principal), Herj Ghaug (Vice Principal), Alyson Cho (Co-Secretary), Adriana Pinon (Secretary), Yokin Tsui (Treasurer), Angela Ng (Co-treasurer), Andrew, Aina Ulain, Mark Canita, Eric Chan (Cst. RCMP)

Absent: Aspi Ustad (Co-chair), Simon Kok (RDPA Rep.)

1. **Welcome and Introductions; we introduced ourselves virtually on-line.**

The Meeting was called to order at 8:18 p.m.

1. **Presentation on Social media safety (7:10 – 8:14 pm)**

Previous to PAC meeting, Cst. Chan from RCMP showed some videos to be aware of social media dangers among teenagers and prevent parents from cybercrimes such as pedophilia, cyberbullying, and frauds. Addiction to devices is becoming a mental health issue and parents sometimes do not know how to establish limits and support their kids. Children are exposed to sexual, violence, anti-social and drugs content in unrestricted Internet access. It was recommended to establish rules and boundaries in the use of social media and have access to supervise child´s devices regularly. Additionally, some advices were provided to surf safely such as do not accept unknown people to contact, do not provide personal information, and encourage your child to talk with an adult in case of feeling in danger. The following help tools were provided: [www.needhelpnow.ca](http://www.needhelpnow.ca), [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca), and [www.kidshelpphone.ca](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca)

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for Feb. 16th, 2021:**

There were no additional comments to the minutes, and it was approved. Yokin motioned; Pooja seconded.

1. **Approval and/or Additions to the Agenda:**

There wereno additions to the Agenda, and it was approved. Yokin motioned; Pooja seconded.

1. **Administration Report—Ms. Timmins**:
2. In November, the School District distributed a survey which was completed by 70% of MacNeill students. The purpose of the survey was to get an idea of how students are feeling about school. Following that survey, MacNeill staff created focus groups of students to share their insights with district counselors and teachers. Students gave very honest feedback, and a major theme was that this year students have a feeling of not being connected with their advisory teachers, their peers, and classmates. Grade 12s especially reported missing the feeling of being a “Grad class” and participating in graduation events that have taken place in previous years.

Following those meetings, the Social-Emotional Learning teacher leaders reached out to Student Council to collaborate on some initiatives to build a sense of community and connection for students. In February, the MacNeill Has Heart display was created with all students’ names on hearts; students enjoyed looking at all the hearts to find their names and those of their friends.

In March, we had a t-shirt logo contest; each grade designed a logo, and each has a different color shirt. The shirts were handed out after Easter weekend, and students will be encouraged to wear their shirts on school activity days.

Staff is planning some outdoor competitions, such as tug-of-war, to bring in some fun. Students will be able to maintain their physical distance outdoors while participating and cheering for their classmates.

Another question on the survey was about feeling safe at school. Students reported that they generally feel safe; however, some of the younger students expressed that they feel less comfortable using the washrooms in less busy areas when those are occupied by older students.

1. MacNeill Staff will be receiving vaccines this weekend.

MacNeill families, students, and staff have consistently been very Covid-safe; we have only had five exposures this year, and none have spread throughout the school. Please don’t give in to Covid fatigue; continue to be cautious and vigilant and do the daily health check. MacNeill staff will continue to supervise hand sanitizing and to provide reminders for students to physically distance from one another.

1. The administration team has been preparing the staffing request to the district for the numbers of blocks and courses based on student selections. They are aware that the district’s budget will be tight, so we may not get all the course blocks requested.
2. Our number of students looks stable for next year. Staff is aware that some incoming students may not have attended school in person in more than a year.
3. Most students who were required to complete their Provincial Literacy and Numeracy Assessments have done so, but those assessments will also be available in June for those students who still need to complete them.
4. Quarter 3 ends this Friday (April 23rd), and Quarter 4 beginsApril 26th.
5. The district plan for next year is that all high schools will work on a semester system with students taking either 2 or 4 courses each day (that detail is still being discussed with district administrators and the teachers’ union). The district expects a normalized year but maintains the ability to quickly pivot if we need to resume on-line learning for all or some students. MacNeill is committed to still fit in the Advisory block because the staff is aware of how important it is for students. Exactly how they will fit in Advisory remains to be decided, but there will be Advisory.
6. Ms. Timmins has been reminding teachers who had requested PAC money to spend it and submit their receipts. She has also made staff aware that there is an opportunity for them to make new requests and will send their requests to us. Some teachers may not be spending the money they had requested because Covid restrictions mean they won’t be using those items; also, the staff is aware that there may be less gaming grant money available next year due to casino closures, so they may be cautious about their requests in order to hold some money back for next year.
7. Ms. Timmins will email parents to set up a Grad Committee. Covid restrictions will prevent the kinds of celebrations we’ve had in the past, but last year parents worked together to put together swag bags for students to pick up after their valedictory; perhaps this year’s parent group could do the same.
8. **Chairperson Report—Pooja Kalsi (Chair); Aspi Ustad (Co-chair)’s absent:**

* Ms. Kalsi expressed our thankfulness to the school personnel for their efforts to keep students safe and for their patience and correct handle of this difficult situation with COVID-19.
* Additionally, she opens the invitation to the parents to join PAC team. The committee is glad to answer by email or any other channel any question related to the roles to cover and make the transition from parents leaving the PAC to guide on the functions and roles details to new members. Currently, a secretary position is required in the PAC. Interested parents, please contact Ms. Kalsi.

1. **Treasurer Report—Yokin Tsui**

Our accounts are at Coast Capital, and these are our bank balances as of April. 1st, 2021:

* General Account: $260.17
* Gaming: $15,613.45
* Dry Grad: $ 4,208.18
* New gaming grant online application is open to apply from April to June. Yokin will work with Angela and submit the grant application together.   
  The process consists of two steps:

1) Apply online before June 30th and   
 2) Submit the financial report within 90 days after the fiscal year ends. School fiscal year ends on June 30th.

* The gaming grant shall be disbursed within 36 months on the day on deposit in the bank account.

1. **RDPA Representative Report--Simon Kok (absent). Pooja shared the following information:**

* There was confusion about masks for grade 4th to 7th
* Improving ventilation in the schools, that will be discussed with the trustees
* Transitional learning and update of continuation until end of school year.
* There is information on the posted minutes and Facebook page contains update information as well.

1. **Update from Incentive –Marcy Timmins:**

* They do not meet with parent group anymore, but for formers. Perhaps this item should be reported separately from this agenda.
* Incentive have been impacted by COVID-19 by the inability to do so many of the trips in many schools.

1. **Other Business:**

No additional business mentioned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom