

**A.R. MacNeill Parent Advisory Council Minutes**  
**Location: Library**  
**Wednesday October 19, 2022**  
**PAC meeting**  
**7:00 pm**

Present: John Blair (Principal)  
Aspi Ustad, PAC Chair  
Catherine Ellens, Secretary  
Sanders Mah (standing in for Angela Ng, treasurer)

Parent attendees:

Jimmy Yang  
Rena Shields  
Sonia Kahng  
Emily Baum  
Jag Reehal

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Call to order 7:03 pm
3. Approval of the minutes for September 2022 meeting
  - Catherine motioned for approval; Aspi seconded. Minutes were approved
4. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda.
  - Add traffic to agenda
5. Presentation of Budget and approval
  - Gaming Funds

Mr. Blair explained how the gaming funds can be used - for clubs etc, but not instructional time.

PLT is considered instructional time, but some of them are like a club. He gave the list of items that teachers have requested from the gaming fund. He indicated which ones would fall into the curriculum, which are clubs and other categories ones that could be considered curriculum or not.

He emailed the list to the parents who attended the meeting and who wanted to be part of the decision making process. They will discuss among themselves and present the approved ones at the PAC meeting in November.

#### 6. Administration Report - Mr. John Blair

- Things have been progressing well since the last meeting. The school is staying connected via the website, instagram and Twitter (@armacneill for both instagram and twitter). Mr. Blair creates posters for instagram on Sunday night. Shows how to be connected to community in different way.
- Student affordability fund from Ministry of Education . The school district just received another 1.96 million for the fund. Clothing and footwear can now be requested through this fund. Have increased allotment for food. Can pay for sports or anything else that families/ children need. If there are families in need - tell them to reach out to the school in person or via email: macneill@sd38.bc.ca- Dauvrey MacDonald, vice principal is collating this information. Want to spend all the money before winter break so families get the money now. Have other funds and grants that help with food and sports in the new year.

No letter grades as of next year for kids in grade 8 and 9. They are looking at proficiency skills - 4 areas - emerging, developing, proficient and extending. There may be an insufficient evidence (IE) category. Curriculum is more skills based instead of letter based.

Grade 10-12 not able to use this as Universities want letter grades

- Interims up on October 31, 2022.
- Grad assessments happen the week of October 31- GNA 10, GLA 10 and GLA 12
- Nov 9 and 10 - parent teacher conferences. Remembrance Day ceremony on November 10 - there will be 2 ceremonies because of so many kids in the school
- New graduation requirements effective 2024 (next school year)- Indigenous-focused course work - all grade 11s this year will need to take it to graduate next year (in 2024). The school district is looking at changing English 12 to English First Peoples to give these kids the opportunity to meet this requisite. These are part of the district's efforts towards reconciliation. This has not been confirmed yet. Currently the school offering Contemporary's Indigenous Studies 12 as a course option.
- Secondary structure survey - Talking about what structure we are going to be in next year - need to look at whether we are going to be linear (like this year) or semester. This is being reviewed as MacNeill had low involvement in the survey last year so stayed with linear. Mr. Blair has done a language evaluation of the home languages for the kids - the primary languages spoken here (other than English) are: Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Tagalog.

He is looking at translating the survey into these languages to reach out to these families to get their feedback.

He is looking at integrating the survey into the parent teacher conferences by having students and staff who speak the language to help do survey with families, on the spot, during sporting events or open houses.

Have to have results of the survey before spring break.

• **Please do the survey, ask others to do it as well!**

- Grad events - meeting with Grade 12s next Wednesday at assembly to talk about Boat Cruise. Have 119 kids scheduled to go with 13 staff members.

Will be sending information home too about other grad events- will have fees, deadlines, expectations for graduation

7. Chair report - Aspi

- RDPA meeting happening Thursday Nov 3 6:30 pm in person  
Received email regarding guest speakers and how they can bring speakers in and the PACs can share the cost. Eg. Saleema Noon  
Ideas of talks: addiction services - to discuss vaping and cannabis - Aspi will ask the district about bringing someone in. Eg. Dr. Diane MacIntosh - expert on ADHD and how it combines with substance use.  
?RCMP to come in and do talk to parents - what to look for when kids are doing cannabis

RDPA - running workshops - chair, treasurer workshop, dry after grad workshops etc.

8. Treasurer Report—Angela Ng:

As of Oct 1, 2022:

Chequing account: \$290.17

Gaming account: \$28,160.06 - got this years gaming funds - over \$15,000

Dry Grad account: \$4208.18

9. Incentive update - no representative present

10. BCCPAC - paid membership renewal. Rena Shields will be the representative

11. Other business - traffic

A dad reported that he saw 2 cars on two different days accelerate through the parking lot. Is a concern. Saw someone accelerate by the gym.

3 abandoned cars in the parking lot - Mr. Blair will follow up with the RCMP

Traffic congestion was brought up at the last meeting in May. Aspi sent an email with concerns to Marcy Timmins, the principal at the time. He will forward it to Mr. Blair for review.

Next meeting November 16, 2022 at 7pm in the library

Meeting Adjourned 8:48 pm.