

A.R MacNeill Parent Advisory Council

Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 7:00 pm

Venue: A R MacNeill School (Library)

Attendees: John Blair (School Principal)

Jag Reehal (PAC Chair)

Elihah _____ (PAC Co-Treasurer)

Kelly Kavanagh (PAC Co-Secretary)

Parents:	Orgest Nekaj	Laura Margolin
	Mary Yeh	Mike Sun
	Dana _____	Xuan Zheng
	Helen Lee	

Meeting started at 7:00pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Call to Order 7:01pm

3. Approval of AGM Meeting Minutes of Oct 18th, 2023 meeting

Approval Kelly Kavanagh, 2nd ed by Jag Reehal

4. Approval and/or Additions to the Agenda

None

5. Spreadsheet Review

Tabled for future meeting

6. Administration Report – Mr. John Blair

- i) Staying Connected – Website, Instagram - @armacneill
- ii) Student Affordability Fund – for student with challenging family financial picture
 - 35 kids in the community who participate in a Lunch Program
 - \$2400 a month costs to provide from cafeteria
 - wants to offer food, clothing, athletic fees, extra course fees, costs of fieldtrips
 - looking for person in the community to have Food Bank connections so can offer Breakfast Program
 - email the school if you know a family who could benefit
- iii) Graduation Assessments 2023 -2024
 - Grad Literacy Assessment was moved to January to allow more time to improve your Grad Literacy 12 grade. Can take up to 3 times. UBC has made a score of 3 or more a requirement for entry.
 - GLA Practice Assessments / Examples/ Modules are on MyEd BC site
 - Dates:
 - a. Nov 1 & 2 = GNA 10 (numeracy 10)
 - b. Jan 23 & 24 = GLA 12 (Literacy 12)
 - c. April 17 & 18 GLA 10 (Literacy 10)
- iv) Informal Learning Update (Interims) – Oct 26th, 2023
 - Emailed home to families this year
 - Pls make sure your correct email address is registered with the school
 - May log in to MyEd BC site to confirm correct email address
 - Updates on your child's Engagement, Behaviour & Learning Progress will be on Proficiency Scale (from emerging to extending)
- v) PAC Gaming Funds – Approval of PAC Expenditures
 - suggested a separate meeting to decide on approving purposed Club / Staff Expenditures

➤ Nov 1st 2023 ?

- \$32000 cost in purposed expenses, \$28000 funds available
- caution that Scholarships or PLT (curricular recommended time) do NOT qualify
- distributed previous Approved Expenditures agreed to by the PAC
- some errors in current list

7. Chairperson Report – Jag Reehal (Chair)

Jag volunteered to register to become a member of DPAC- District PAC

8. Treasurer Report – Elihah _____ (Co- Treasurer)

i) Financial Report (General and Gaming Account)

- Bank Balance for Gaming Fund \$26,991.05
- Can remain for up to 2 years before deciding

ii) Request to change Fiscal Year to end August 1st

- To give time to issue cheques, have recipients cash cheques, and balance budget
- Motion to change the Fiscal Year End to August 1st
 - Made by - Jag Reehal, Approved - Mary Hey
 - Vote - Unanimous decision

iii) Request to increase the PAC donation to Dry Grad from \$4000 to \$6000 to reduce fundraising need

- Tabled for separate Approval of Expenditures Meeting

9. Updates for –

i) Incentive Representative – (Kelly Kavanagh and Dana _____)

- Possible Move of Outdoor Incentive Program
- Due to MacNeill growing enrollment and space limits

- Evidence that new students/ parents do not get informed about Outdoor Incentive Option if their elementary school is out of their catchment
- Invite to register to participate in Incentive Outdoor Ed Focus Group on Oct 26th at 7pm
- Principal Perspective:
 - Where - Cambie Secondary? – smallest school with lower enrollment
 - Enrollment numbers lower than they should be – can take 29 kids in each grade (Gr 8, 9, 10)
 - 28 blocks assigned to run program = 4 teachers for only 50 students
 - Considering 9/10 split classes in Incentive English and other core classes

ii) Dry Grad Representative

- Balance \$4322.13
- Inflatables no longer allowed due to No Indemnity Clause
- Different rooms for Grads to hang in – quiet room, main gym, another room with food

iii) School Store/Merch

- Mr. Blair having discussion with student and Staff graphic designers to develop standardized logo
- can be customized for smaller groups within the school who want to have official logo as part of club/ group/team
- able to be continued in the school and create a legacy

10. Other Business

- i) Parent Concerns about MacNeill Basketball Try-Outs - (Mary Yeh) -** that Gr 11 students have been told that they cannot try out for MacNeill Basketball Team unless they are part of MAC Hoops
 - MAC Hoops -a private organization using school gym to run a basketball program

- 2 of the 3 coaches running basketball are with community /MAC Hoops
- Principal informed that all Kids can try out – do NOT need to be part of MAC Hoops

ii) Parents concerns that younger players are taking up the positions on Grade 11 -12 Senior Basketball Team

- has one 9th Grader and five 10th Graders – wants opportunity for multiple students to play

iii) Purpose of Personal Learning times

- Mr. Blair reported that during Covid-19 they learned that some students could manage their own learning time on-line and could build independence
- Other kids needed to practice their social skills
- Options for PLT – ceramics group, R & B contemporary Music, Chess Workshop, girls basketball, weight room, art, French support, GNA grade 10 assessment Prep
- Gr 8 and 9 Students are encouraged to Sign -Up for PLT and come into the school to learn how things go, and discover what they like
- Higher Grades can use their PLT to study at home or explore other passions as it is assumed that they will have greater understanding of their learning needs
- Currently the On-Line System is only being used for 317 students (out of 840) and teachers are not taking attendance
- Principal Considering combining PLT with Advisory – making it 30 mins a day for 5 days a week, before lunch

Invite to Student Voice Forum – Mr. Blair

- Oct 23rd 2023 after school
- What are the things students want changed within the school building and in the school community
- To make it a safer and more comfortable place for students
- To tell staff what important things are happening
- Send an email to Principal to have more anonymity, or drop into private office

11. Adjourned Meeting at 8pm

12. Next Meeting date – Nov 1, 2023

- Moved from Nov 15th 2023 – Same date as Parent presentation on Social Media

