

A.R. MacNeill Parent Advisory Council Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Tues. Sept. 21, 2021
7:00 pm

Present: Marcy Timmins (Principal), Bronwyn Fackler (Vice Principal), Dauvery MacDonald (Vice Principal)

Pooja Kalsi, PAC co-chair
Aspi Ustad, PAC co-chair
Angela, Treasurer
Catherine Ellens, Secretary

Parent attendees:

Max Hespanhol
Susan Nga Tran
Bonnie Chu
Sajjad Huusain
Angelica Guevara
Channel Calizo
Grace Chow
Shashi Goel
Adihityo Widow
Leticia
Edward Law

1. Welcome and Introductions. So nice to see so many parents in attendance! Meeting was held on Teams.
2. Call to order 7:05 pm
3. Approval of the on-line via ZOOM minutes of June 2021
 - Draft minutes were reviewed with no changes noted
 - Pooja motioned for approval; Marcy seconded. Minutes were approved
4. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda.
 - There were no additions to the Agenda
5. Nominations, elections and confirmation of the 2021 - 2022, PAC Executives, RDPA Rep, Co-Treasurer, Co-secretary:

- In June, Pooja and Aspi agreed to continuing to co-chair for another year
- In June, Catherine Ellens Secretary agreed to be the secretary, but another co-secretary would be helpful to share the responsibilities
- Angela Ng volunteered to be the Treasurer, but another co-treasurer would be helpful to share the responsibilities
- Details are on the school website for roles and responsibilities of the PAC. We could use another co-secretary and co-treasurer and are happy for any others who want to join. Feel free to contact Pooja at poojakalsi@yahoo.com
- Dry After Grad Chair is needed but can probably wait a little longer as we are unsure whether Dry Grad celebrations will be able to proceed. Marcy will keep the PAC updated in discussions with the district and other high schools.

6. RDPA meeting representative - . Pooja agreed to attend RDPA meetings . Each school in the district has a PAC representative, but any parent is welcome. Various topics are discussed.

7. Administration Report—Ms. Marcy Timmins

- The school currently has 756 Students - similar to the number last year, but for last year, grades 10, 11 and 12 have been 1/2 time.
- The staff are feeling the increase in the numbers. Students are having hard time recognizing to not gather in large groups. Don't have to stay 6 feet apart this year.
- At lunch, can't be walking in halls eating as masks are down off of nose and mouth. Have opened classrooms so students eat sitting down (2 per table) - kids are gathering in larger groups but teachers have to remind them to cut down numbers.
- Please remind your children not to share food
- Have sanitizing stations at front of every class and at entrances. Students don't seem to be sanitizing as much anymore, but students need to be reminded - so messages will be going out.
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCH) was going to offer a vaccination clinic - but was cancelled as there was limited uptake. A fair number of kids are not vaccinated so need to maintain the protocols.
- 110 staff - that is many people in the building at the same time. Have new French and resource teacher. Welcomed back 2 teachers from leave.
- They are trying to balance classes so there are still changes happening now.

- Will be sending out updated school calendar. Will come out on WAAG and directly to email boxes.
- Personalized learning time - goal is to have kids moving more towards taking more responsibility for their learning. PLT has only happened once so far. Students are asked to sign up in advance on an app that they have. They get to see a list of activities offered (they limit numbers for each activity). Kids can attend 2 sessions each time - each session is 50 min. Will be able to track students who don't sign up and will be reaching out to them to find why. For the senior students, they may be a bit more flexible based on what the child's goals are.
- Bronwyn will discuss sign up process. PLT sign up - in terms of the online sign up - there is a QR code on the handout that went out to staff and students. When students log in, they go to my weekly planner - the user ID is the student ID associated with the school. Temporary password is first and last initial with the student ID number. The teachers put in their PLT offerings and the students then go in and sign up. They can create a plan for themselves - they need to create their own learning plans. Need to learn time management - helps the learn time management.
- Some activities were really popular. Allows them to connect with their teachers on a different level. Some kids went to the lounge to do homework. If any student is confused or has questions about PLT- encourage them to talk to their teacher or pop into the office.
- One of the things that parents want to keep an eye on - gives the students a lot more opportunity to connect with teachers to get help or get homework finished.
- Trying to use PLT time for some things that are off timetable but mandatory - career life connections for grade 11 and 12. They have had a large meeting for all grade 12s and reviewed assignments
- Coming up next week is the meet the teacher date .The decision is to not have an in-person event. The teachers have asked to write up about their course and how to get in touch with them. They will be sending a message out to all families, by now, you should have received some information so we can keep on track as Thursday as meet the teacher information sharing.
- Will have another large gathering of grade 12s and meet with counsellors specifically about post-secondary prep. Will invite parents to virtual invitation to info on post-secondary for next week - recommended for grade 11 and 12 students and parents.
- Are also going to have a virtual post-secondary fair.
- Canadian universities event - virtual event 4pm-7pm Monday Oct 4.
- Encourage your kids to apply for scholarships in Grade 12. Kids must take at least 6 Richmond based courses to be eligible for scholarships - to their knowledge there are no kids who don't meet this criteria.

- Terry Fox run is tomorrow - starts at 10:15 - 11:45. Small group by small group will be released. Asked to bring a toonie for Terry if they can.
- Professional Day on Friday - no school for students.
- Sept 29 - orange shirt day
- Sept 30 - Day for Truth and Reconciliation - school is closed on that day.
- Photos students had taken on Monday are already up on Artona website. Message has gone out for you to look on the link and select a package if you wish to purchase it. Students will be given Go card in a couple of weeks. If your child missed photo day - they can go to retake day
- Interims will be posted by Oct 15. This interim is earlier in the year in hopes to increase communication between parent and child if they are needing assistance.
- PAC gaming fund requests - Marcy will be approaching the teachers to see what their requests are for the gaming funds. At the PAC meeting in October, the PAC will go through the list of requests and decide where the funding goes.

- Questions from parents during PAC meeting:

Q: Why is PE not offered to all students?

A: As we are soon the semester system - only 4 courses offered in each semester.

Q: Updated reporting on exposures - how is it different from last year?

A: Every event will be reported. There was zero transmission in Vancouver Coastal Health and no outbreaks in Richmond schools. If VCH becomes aware of a positive test for a child in the school - parents will get an exposure letter like last year. The school has additional custodian time as they did last year. They clean door handles, table tops, railings, bathrooms.

- Biggest challenge now is getting students on board is getting them to sit and eat or go outside to eat.
- The expectation if there is a positive covid event, parents will be notified.
- Schools were given rapid test kits. She has given out 2 this week. Life labs process it immediately. It is not to be taken at school, but at home.

8. Treasurer Report—Angela Ng:

- Angela is new treasurer and Yokin was previous treasurer and she will attend a few meetings to help Angela with her new role.

- Angela reported that Yokin is very organized and handed over all her spread sheets. For general account. We have \$260.17. In our gaming acct \$7950.88. For dry grad \$4208.18. We have not received our gaming grant funds yet - should get them in the next couple weeks.
- Do you think we will be able to get the same kind of gaming grant because casinos were closed for awhile? Typically we receive \$20/student. Last year the RDPA encouraged us to keep some money from last year because the casinos were closed.
- Scholarships - were are 4 students who will be getting scholarships from the PAC for the 2020/2021 school. Year . There is a student who deferred post secondary last year so there will be 5 scholarships handed out this year.
- Dry Grad - Marcy felt that it is premature to start planning something. When Marcy has information on grad, she will share it.

9. Updates:

- Incentive - there was no update on Incentive
- Dry Grad - Marcy felt that it is premature to start planning something. When Marcy has information on grad, she will share it.

10. Other business BCCPAC membership renewal

BCC PAC renewal- should we do it?

As PAC executives, do we agree to renew the membership. Cost \$75 - students eligible to apply for scholarships and awards. Yes, we will apply.

Aspi thanked Yokin for her dedication and work that she has given to the PAC over the past couple of years.

Meeting Adjourned 8:16pm

Next PAC meeting Oct 19 at 7pm. Will meet again on Teams.