

Minutes - McKechnie PAC Meeting, June 14, 2022

Erin Yorke and Simon Sun - PAC Co-Chairs

Erin Yorke began with a Land Acknowledgement: *We gratefully acknowledge the lands of the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh nations on which we live, work, learn and play.* She continued on to welcome everyone to the first In person meeting in over 2 years! Hooray!

Michael Singh - McKechnie School Principal's Update

- Nice to see everyone in person!
- First Sports Day in a couple years took place in May, which brought the community back together, as did Friday Night Fun Fair.
- Track and Field just ended. It was a little smaller this year as neighbouring schools didn't form younger teams. 2 smaller meets before larger, final meet at Churchill. Thanks to coaches Ms. Pail, Ms. Williston, Mr. Smitna and Mrs. Wong.
- Next year we'll have 12 divisions (we're adding 1, a Grade 4 class) Ms. Killam, who is currently (job share with Ms. Papageorgiou) will take that on. Resource Teacher, Ms. Logie, will leave to become a VP at Henderson. Ms. Patel, Administrative Assistant, is leaving us too, sadly.
- We're a small school with 12 divisions so it's difficult to have a straight class. There will be two straight K's and 1 each straight Grade 1, 3 and 4. Otherwise there will be split classes. Families are moving in (reality of Vancouver right now). School is responsible for finding a spot for kids living in their catchment.

Question: With 1 kid in Grade 2 do I have to worry about younger child getting in?

-No. VSB has a sibling priority policy. After that, spots opened to others in catchment. Then school take kids who didn't fit into neighbouring schools.

Question: Size of grad class for next year?

-Close to 30

Question: Does split class affect learning outcomes?

- No...and "Class Casting" a big undertaking: First need to place designated (Special Needs) students, which impacts number of kids in a class (for appropriate student to teacher ratio). Then, look at academic needs, social relationships, input from teachers, principal, resource teachers, parents. Also look at student as individual and see what teacher works best for them.
- In a split class older kids can play a leadership role and youngers benefit from modeling. - - -
- Teachers modify expectations based on grade & platoon certain subjects ex: Grade 5/6/7 Math

Question: Son going to Grade 2 and daughter in Grade 1. Any chance they'd be in same class?

- Usually don't put siblings in same class.

Leah Collings - Volunteer and Friday Night Fun Fair Update

- FNFF was so much fun! So thrilled as a collective parent group to see everyone participate.
- Didn't have trouble filling volunteer roles, despite short notice.
- \$3100 raised, even though vendor costs up 30% this year,
- Lots of ticket sales and thanks for class parents doing the raffle baskets.

-Raffle also really advertised the FNFF itself. Thanks to Erin for leading the Raffle
- Needed a rain plan. We moved inside and learned: arts and crafts worked inside (calmer, so kids would stay and finish). Utilizing more of the school made it more community focussed. Really enjoyed the alumni. Teachers emailed saying thanks for bringing the alumni back.
Alvin - "best Friday Night Fun Night ever!" Liked having activities in the gym.
-Erin said thanks to Leah: such a shortened timeline (Only 5 weeks) Leah made it happen!
-Div 9 and Div 2 get extra recess for Raffle ticket sales.
Raffle Proceeds: Support Garden Project. Starts with limestone paving. \$5000 for that. Then garden boxes. Still in the works. Maybe some Magee wood working students/ spouses helping to build. Volunteer sign up to come

-Next year volunteer needs similar to this year. We will need class parents, also people interested in training into Yearbook Editors. Tiffany Lee will need help as Ada Ip will stop once her son graduates. Need more people interested in layout and design. Great people to work with and they always put together a fabulous product. Always parents asking for a yearbook after the fact.

Hot Lunch/Pizza Lunch

Thanks to Coordinators Christina Saunders (Pizza) and Tiffany Lee (Hot Lunch). Christina will stay on as Pizza Lunch Coordinator and Sophia Liu will coordinate Hot Lunch (with Tiffany's support) next year.

Moving forward welcome to feedback.

Next year, we'll probably still do individual lunches in classrooms (to start anyway).

-Special Thanks to Tiffany, also leaving Communication Role, for all her instrumental work on PAC Exec this year.

PAC Budget Update - Geoff Kennedy, PAC Treasurer:

- Official year end Aug 31, but spending stops at end of June.
- Hot lunch came in a little below budget (service suspension in Jan. due to COVID)
- Offering Hot lunch on 2 days a week simply split the orders, didn't create additional orders
- Pizza lunch back on track, despite service suspension in January and vendor price raise.
- Bulk of spending still to come: Grade 7 Grad subsidy (formerly Strathcona).
- Staff appreciation still to spend, and Yearbook
- Thanks Geoff, for all your hard work on PAC Exec over past 3 years.

Parent friendships group (Debbie Lin) & Diverse Learner Groups (Naomi Johnson)

- Will run again next year.

Family Photo Night - Continue or Not?

Nice idea - families have a school photo and matching family photo every year...some families go year after year. Not a huge fundraiser though. Also, mistakes made by photographer in filling orders. Maybe revisit in September.

- Michael noted that Edge Imaging would be replacing Artona, so will need to check with them.

PAC Meeting 2022/23 - In person versus Zoom?

First PAC Sept 22

First Social Oct 6

*Meetings switched to Thursdays

-Majority at AGM like in person as nicer to see people, much easier to get input and have discussions. However, even with childcare provided, it's easier for some families to go than others.

- Maybe first and last meetings are in person?

- Hybrid option? people who had experienced those meetings had found them technically difficult and unsatisfactory

- Higher attendance with Zoom, and opportunity to be "fly on the wall" keeping apprised while doing other things. Also nicer in winter months.

Other Questions/Discussion

Question: How does 3rd party providers for after school programs? For example:

Chess, Young Rembrandts, Lights Up Drama, Ms. Hundal writing.

-Contact Michael and see if it works.

Question: Would school be open to after school language provider? Mandarin?

-Yes

Fruit and Veggie program back for next year.

Question: Could Michael provide PAC with summary of Direct Drive spending?

-Raz Kids, Adobe, Digital Subscriptions (What in the World: Current Events, Mapping Technology), replacing projectors in classrooms/smartboards, Music Program: replace and repair instruments, PE: big speaker, new reversible jerseys for intermediates, Outdoor Classroom, Garden Project, Home Reading books, Library resources, Resource Room.

In past, Direct Drive also funded a Week of Dance. Various Service providers held classes for all grades in gym for 1 week or 2 (Stomp, Hip Hop, Irish, Bollywood Bhangra).

Question: Winter Concert next year?

- VSB taking measured approach to return to activities. See how it goes.

**Dr. R.E. McKechnie Elementary School
AGM Minutes
June 14, 2022**

Call for nominations for PAC Exec Positions:

Leah Collings nominated:
Erin Yorke and Navi Sihota as PAC Co-Chairs
Simon Sun as PAC Treasurer,
Naomi Johnson as PAC Secretary.
Debbie Lin as Communications Officer

Erin Yorke nominated Leah Collings as PAC Volunteer Coordinator

Moved: Geoff Kennedy **Seconded:** Alvin Jordan
To elect candidates, as nominated, for PAC Executive

No Objection
All in Favour: Motion Carried

Moved: Leah Collings **Seconded:** Erin Yorke to pass the June 15, 2021 PAC AGM Minutes
Motion Carried. June 15, 2021 PAC AGM Minutes approved

AGM adjourned 8:40.