

Minutes - McKechnie PAC Meeting, February 23, 2023

PAC Co-Chairs - Erin Yorke and Joyce Minami - Erin 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 showed a photo of the "Reconciliation Pole" located at the VSB at West Broadway and Fir.

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Indigenous_Education/Indigenous_Events/Legacy%20Carving%20Project/Pages/Meaning-behind-the-Reconciliation-Pole-and-Welcome-Figures.aspx

Principal's Update - Michael Singh

Snow Closures - Listen to news and watch school website. VSB knows and posts by 7am.

Jess Dance- held a deposit from us from pre-Covid. They're booked for June 5-9 (Grades 1-6). Paid for with \$1000 from PAC Direct Drive and \$1000 from Student Family Affordability Fund. This means dance week is fully subsidized with no cost to parents.

Babysitting -First Aid provider is all booked for pro-D's this year, so will book for next year.

Sports - Basketball winding up. Jr. Girl's had a great season winning all but one. Thanks to Ms. Lum Tong and Ms.Chang for coaching/assisting. Sr. Boys made the playoffs and will play in Zone Final at Magee. Mr. Singh had a great time coaching them.

Badminton - Starts soon. Will play on Thursdays. Students to sign up before Spring Break

Spirit Wear - Hoodie orders delivered yesterday. Tshirts will sell again just after Spring Break.
-Request for sizing chart for hoodies in future.

Baking Club- Ms. Chang to offer to Grades 5-7 after school after Spring Break. Now holding Jello sales to fundraise for a new mixer.

- Question about using Direct Drive funds for mixer?

- Yes, they can be used if need be. Jello sales are also to generate interest in club.

Literacy Day - Ms Koke organized a Book Swap. Any older kids books appreciated for next time (need a few more intermediate titles). Thanks for parent support in providing books.

Hot Lunch: Please Pack Cutlery! - We're going through too many plastic disposables.

Traffic - Reminder to move clockwise. Drop off and move on. Don't drop off across the street. Slow down.

-Question about taking a harder line, calling police and getting some parents ticketed? Word gets around and people pay more attention to the rules.

-Usually police only come out once or twice a year, September and Spring. If they do some safety workshops with kids they come a little early and do some traffic policing as well.

- Will look into it as their presence does make a difference.

- Question about dropping kids off and not seeing supervision aides?

-2 people supervise every morning. They supervise back and side of school, not front. Mr. Singh usually in front. They aren't there to help with traffic, but to keep an eye on the kids.

Direct Drive Fund Spending - close to half spent on student laptops. Garden Club also received funds and should be ready for Spring planting. Also, projectors purchased for Ms. McNair's and Ms. Killum's classrooms. Funds also used for RazKids Digital Reading Program, "What in the World" (Current Events) Digital subscription, and Adobe Photoshop.

Treasurer Report - Simon Sun- Highlights from McKechnie PAC Financials to January

- Simon unavailable, so Erin highlighted budget line items. Reminder under the Gaming Account there is \$1000 budgeted for Workshops and Seminars. There is a possible \$3000 surplus at the end of the school year because \$7,600 carried over from the previous year.
- Note: Family photo night raised close to \$800.

Volunteer Coordinator - Leah Collings

- After Spring Break, Grad Committee will start meeting.
- Friday Night Fun Fair also coming up. Parents/Families asked to volunteer 1 hour at it.
- Welcome to Kindergarten/Mentor Families - Possibly 40 new families who are totally new to McKechnie (no siblings already there). One idea is to have a mentorship program for all new families. Pair up new family with existing McKechnie families so they can ask any questions. We're currently reaching out with current class parents to see if anyone wants to coordinate it. Will also be reaching out to find mentor families who could potentially connect with the new family over the summer. Will try and match up families to assist with language as well. Will be setting it up in late spring and leading into summer
- Question about inviting new families to Friday Night Fun Fair with free admission?
- Definitely invite them and we can discuss free admission at April PAC Meeting.
- Suggestion that (as happened in past) class parents host a welcome tea. A way for families to connect. They'll need to meet up with the families in their classes for play dates, support, etc.
- Responsibility of hosting turns some people off being class parent.
- For this new, extra large group, we should work to set up a welcome tea.
- Mr. Singh added that next fall a combined PAC sponsored Welcome Back BBQ with Meet the Teacher night will be a good way to include all families. This is already on the calendar.
- Also looking for new PAC Executive prospects as well, and will mentor into these positions
- Alvin offered a plug for volunteering and especially helping out with Friday Night Fun Fair. As a long time volunteer in many different roles (currently Pizza lunch), he highly recommends it for getting to feel part of school community. Thanks for everything you do Alvin!

Hot Lunch Update - Thank-you Sophia Cai & other parent volunteers that help with hot lunch! The hot lunch program is going well; approximately 100-110 meals per day, (200 per week).

Please send cutlery with your child on hot lunch day!

Pizza Lunch Update- Thank-you Christina and parent volunteers (Alvin) for supporting the pizza lunch! Grade 7's Pizza lunch is going well with an average of 120 orders each week.

Fruit and Veggie Program Update- Thank-you Tiffany & volunteers for continuing to distribute food from Fruit and Veggie program.

The Fruit & Veggie program comes every 2-3 weeks. Fruits & veggies are given out at 10:30am and if there are extras, we serve them during Hot Lunch. .

Parent Education workshops:

Salema Noon (Sexual Health Education) April 25 at 6pm (Online) - They offer a set of age appropriate body science sessions for each grade in the school. This is followed by a parent information session too, which is an opportunity to ask questions around body science or sexual health.

-Saleema Noon also offering a free program to parents of pre-teens. For more info:
Website is: <https://learn.saleemanoon.com/webinar-registration>

Westcoast Centre for Learning Spring Executive Functioning Class:

<https://wccl.ca/programs/children-youth/executive-function-social-skills/executive-function-skills-group-class/>

Abigail Wald, founder of Mother Flipping Awesome - April 12th at 7 pm (Online).

PAC Communications Officer Debbie, has been learning with Abigail over the last 3.5 years, and now works for Abigail as part of the MFA Team. Debbie sought Abigail's help during a time when she was deeply struggling with parenting her two spirited boys, now aged 6 and 9 and in Grades 1 and 4 at McKechnie. Abigail has been empowering parents to become benevolent leaders of their families for over a decade. She especially loves working with families with kids who are highly sensitive. Abigail works to support people to parent in a way that aligns with the values and personality of everyone in the family.

For more info: motherflippingawesome.com Also, check out the Mother Flipping Awesome Podcast and the Hand in Hand Parenting Podcast.

Diverse Learners Parent Group - Naomi Johnson, parent of child with special learning needs, will organise a parent group meet up in March for parents to chat, share resources and ideas. Contact: naomi@happyjoy.com

Friendship Circle - Debbie Lin - McKechnie Parent Friendship Circle Most recent meeting at Mello Donuts. Had to cancel some meetings so hoping to meet up a few more times before end of year. A chance for parents to meet more parents, chat and share. In the future, we may do more (go karting!) If you want to jump into the whatsapp group to be kept in the loop on what's happening, here's the link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GkZ8zqSAQdqHDJScHtKHvY>

New After School Programs -Joyce Minami - Purpose is to supplement education students are getting at McKechnie. Rather than wait for providers reach out to the school to offer programs, we are taking a proactive approach. Starting Spring Term 2023, we are planning for 3-5 programs per Term. The programs will be in the areas of fine arts, language arts, STEM, sports & movement, etc. Appealing to different ages and interests. The program information will be posted each Term on the PAC website. There will also be an opportunity through a survey for parents to give feedback on programs and what they'd like to see for next school year.

-Mr. Singh thanked Joyce for all the work she's put into this. It will really benefit the parent community!

-Leah too thanked Joyce for doing such a thorough job of this, really researching available programs and noted PAC was really excited to bring all these programs to McKechnie!

Family Photo Night Feb 13 &14 - Feedback?

-Easy to order, experience good, photographer fun and friendly + it was a good fundraiser too.

Questions and Comments

-Joyce Minami noted she had seen a coyote near school field. At 5 in the evening.

-Mr. Singh asked people to call the school and let us know if sighting is before or during school day. Thankfully they usually come before 8am and then leave.

Moved Joyce Minami /**Seconded** Leah Collings to approve the January 12, 2023 PAC Minutes Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 pm. Next PAC Meeting will be April 6 at 7pm.