

## Draft Minutes - June 15 PAC and Annual General Meeting

### **Simon Sun and Joyce Huang, PAC Co-Chairs**

- Simon Sun welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

### **Principal's Update - Ankie Carswell, McKechnie Principal**

- **Introduction of new Principal, Michael Singh** - Mr. Singh said he had enjoyed his opportunity to briefly tour the school and meet the students and teachers. He said he looked forward to meeting the parents too in what he hoped would be a "more normal" year next year. He said he loves sports and coaches basketball and has missed that and the other extracurricular activities. When asked how to manage a sports program at a smaller school, he noted there needed to be student interest first, and then staff availability to sponsor a team. With sufficient student interest a parent coach can be used (with sponsor) teacher to supervise. Also asked about how a Grade 5/6/7 split class could work he said that he himself had taught a 3 grade split at the primary level and that it was not common but could be effective with time and management. When asked what creates a positive school community he said effective communication between parents, teachers and staff and students. He said he would start by observing, seeing and learning and then bringing his own expertise to the mix, but that his first important task was to build relationships.
- **Staffing** - Ms. Christie now leaving to teach at Tecumseh, Ms. Lum Tong will stay and teach Kindergarten along with Ms. Gee. Ms. Metcalfe's position will be filled by Ms. Cicely Kilum. Support Staff has been reduced by 1 FTE next year. Rose Johnson is leaving. Tessa Conanan will cover a leave until the end of December.
- **Enrollment** - as of that day, 2 spots remain available in Grade 1 or 2. We are fairly full and won't have much space when people move into catchment during school year.
- **Strategic Plan** - feedback email sent to parents. Engagement activity with intermediate students will also happen. VSB Superintendent and Trustee will come for this.
- **Grade 7 school leaving** – Virtual again this year with teachers doing their parts here live; students will turn cameras on to see each other. School will send recording home as a memento.
- **Kindergarten grad** - will be a slide show rather than a live event. A movie will be made and a keepsake will be sent to parents.

### **Questions Arising from Principal's Report:**

Parents asked for some clarification around the decision to have 3 classes with a 3 grade (5/6/7) split?

Ankie explained that every year they look at kids for each grade and then organize each class. This organization was proposed after consultation with staff after looking at dynamics and needs of kids. Composition and group dynamics didn't allow for straight 5, 6 and 7 classes and other configurations couldn't work as the school was too full in other grades. Had several meetings with Resource staff and teachers and no other configuration made sense that would create the

best learning environment for students. Teachers are prepared to tackle this and according to Ms. Puil, it has happened at McKechnie, but at least 7-8 years ago. 3 grade splits do happen all over the district and can be quite successful, especially as new curriculum is quite fluid. Math is a concern, she said, and teachers will need to platoon to teach it. Also, teachers wanted Ankie's commitment to reorganize in September if necessary due to Covid and cohorts.

Concern again expressed that Grade 7 students might lose out as teacher struggles to support all the different needs and levels of development across 3 grades of students. It might be frustrating for 7th grader and difficult to support student needs at the high and low end.

Ankie said curricular content can be taught thematically. For example this year Division 1 taking Greece (Mythology) and Division 3 Greece (Artifacts). Themes similar but criteria vary, both for projects and teaching. Looking at them side by side they vary between grades. Teacher expanded on a concept for Grade 7's, but didn't for Grade 6's. Aside from Math, teachers feel it can be seamless. In past, same grades would get together and work on projects between classrooms. Next year too they will be able to mix and work between classrooms. She feels confident teachers can do this, and if they weren't on board, this wouldn't have gone through.

Erin Yorke noted that she had taught grades 3,4 5 together. She noticed it led to a better classroom community with more leadership opportunities and better opportunities for extension.

#### **Budget Update - Geoff Kennedy**

Approaching the end of school year, the General Account still has enough funds to cover Grade 7 celebrations going on, and the Gaming Account will have about \$5 000 carry over. PAC still has some time (Oct 2022) to spend these funds. He applied for the grant again, so will find out in October this year if/how much PAC will receive.

#### **Volunteer Update - Leah Collings**

Next year we're looking for someone to shadow Dale Raskob for Munch-a-Lunch Admin. Also someone to shadow Geoff on the Treasurer role. Anyone know anyone/interested please let us know. PAC will keep on top of health regulations and then send Sign-up Genius link out early in September for what's allowed. For sure Class Parent, Direct Drive, Friday night Fever volunteers and leads will be needed and it sounds like sports teams too!

Leah had the opportunity to represent the PAC at the "Welcome to Kindergarten" session and said it seemed like a really great group of parents. She said she was looking forward to getting to know them as her daughter enters Kindergarten.

Simon Sun asked any interested volunteers to please approach any PAC Exec member. Also noted that Gaming Funds are leftover and so any ideas on how to spend would be welcome. Talks/Workshops ideas are welcome, we can have speakers in video or other format. Leah Collings mentioned the idea of having a speakers series next year for parents. Any parents interested, please give us your feedback. Topics could include internet safety, bullying,

Anti-Racism, Indigenous education. We could host a couple in the Spring or Fall. If parents think it's a good idea please let us know.

**Moved:** Jennifer Ramos **Seconded** Sandra Harley: to pass the May 4, 2021 PAC Minutes  
**Motion Carried**

PAC Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting will be held Tuesday October 5 at 7:00pm.**

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**Dr. R.E. McKechnie Elementary School  
AGM Minutes  
June 15, 2021**

**Moved:** Joyce Huang **Seconded:** Simon Sun to pass the June 16, 2020 PAC AGM Minutes  
**Motion Carried.** June 16, 2020 PAC AGM Minutes approved

**Moved:** Joyce Huang **Seconded:** Leah Collings to re-elect Simon Sun as PAC Co-Chair.  
**Motion Carried:** Simon Sun re-elected as PAC Co-Chair.

Call for nominations for Co-Chair. Erin Yorke submitted her name as PAC Co-Chair.

**Moved:** Leah Collings **Seconded:** Joyce Huang to elect Erin Yorke for PAC Co-Chair.

**Motion Carried:** Erin Yorke elected as PAC Co-Chair.

**Moved:** Simon Sun **Seconded:** Leah Collings moved to re-elect Geoff Kennedy as PAC Treasurer.  
**Motion Carried.** Geoff Kennedy re-elected as PAC Treasurer.

**Moved:** Leah Collings **Seconded:** Sarah Jordan to re-elect Naomi Johnson as PAC Secretary.  
**Motion Carried.** Naomi Johnson re-elected as PAC Secretary.

**Moved:** Simon Sun **Seconded:** Sarah Jordan moved to re-elect Leah Collings as PAC Volunteer Coordinator.

**Motion Carried:** Leah Collings re-elected as PAC Volunteer Coordinator.

**Moved:** Joyce Huang **Seconded:** Leah Collings to approve all PAC Executive Positions as nominated.

**No Objection**

**Motion Carried**

AGM Adjourned at 7:35 pm