

Minutes - McKechnie PAC Meeting, September 22, 2022

Erin Yorke and Navi Sihota - PAC Co-Chairs

- 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 noted the special relevance of this as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is on Sept. 30.
- She welcomed everyone and introduced members of the 2022/23 PAC Exec: Erin Yorke and Navi Sihota, (PAC Co-Chairs) Simon Sun, (Treasurer,) Leah Collings, (Volunteer Coordinator) Debbie Lin, (Communications) and Naomi Johnson (Secretary).
- PAC Exec composed of parent volunteers who oversee PAC programs/events such as Hot lunch, Friday Night Fun Fair, fundraise and support school initiatives like garden project, and overall serve as a liaison between parents and school.

Principal's Update - Michael Singh

New Staff - Kristine Wong now teaching in a job share with Ms. Papageorgiou (Grade 2&3)

- Cindy Tsang replacing Ms. Logie as Resource Teacher
- Zoe McNaire is a new Grade 3 teacher
- Yukiko is a new School Support Worker and there remains 1 open SSW position
- Nancy Yuen-Chan is the new Administrative Assistant in the office
- Benny Wong is a new Supervision Aid

Enrollment- This year, students didn't start in their new class until the 2nd week of school (due to 800 new students registered in Vancouver over the summer).

- McKechnie now has 284 students (4 spots available).
- Everyone who lives in a school's catchment has right to attend that school, but there are only so many spaces. If student put on wait list, neighbouring schools then contacted for a place. We try to bring them into McKechnie the following year, and sometimes they can come in earlier.

After School Programs- Young Rembrandts - Running Tuesdays after school in Rm 210

- Navi and Erin have provided other program suggestions from the past (Mad Science, Lights Up, Chess, Lego Robotics...) Vancouver Youth Theatre is also a possibility.
- If you have contacts/suggestions, Principal Singh can send them to VSB to see if they are appropriate for an after school program at McKechnie.

Sports Teams- Happily, sports year is starting out as usual: Cross country has started. Open to kids from K to Grade 7. Practices M/W 8:15-8:45 a.m. Various Meets are coming up.

- Sr. Boys soccer running, coached by Ms. Lum Tong.
- Process is to post a sign up sheet to gauge student interest. If there is interest, put it out to teachers to coach. If a parent is needed to coach, a teacher will sponsor the team.
- Unfortunately, not as much interest in girls soccer. Trying to get Gr 4/5's involved.
- Basketball starts in Jan. and Track and Field in Spring

Lunch-time - VSB has said kids can eat in gym again. Currently, though, K-3's are eating in their classes and then going outside for a full lunch hour. Grades 4-7's eat in gym until 12:15. This leaves time for gym activities at lunch hour (team practices, etc.)

- Comment in support of primaries having lunch in classrooms, as previously, when they ate in the gym, it was so busy and noisy they wouldn't finish their food!

Treasurer Report - Simon Sun

***Please scroll down to see preliminary budget**

Simon began by thanking Geoff Kennedy, past Treasurer, for all his work transferring budget from paper to electronic records.

- Budget has 2 separate accounts: General and Gaming

General : Hot lunch and Pizza lunch provide revenue to this: funds PAC Activities and expenses (ex: Grade 7 graduation trip). Pizza lunch brings in most funds.

Gaming: A special account sponsored by the provincial government. PAC applies for this grant every year and receives about \$5000 (based on population of school). Can be used for field trips, parent workshops, etc. Money can be held for 3 years if not spent right away.

-Last year PAC ran surplus. One reason was the Gr 7 trip cancelled due to Covid. This year, everything should be back to normal, so the Gr 7 trip included in this year's (preliminary) budget.

Volunteer Update - Leah Collings

-Lots of volunteer opportunities now posted on PAC Website for any level of time commitment

-Right now the biggest need is to fill class parent and class photographer roles. Need class parents for Ms. Williston, Ms. Killam, Mrs. Pawliuk and Mrs. Papageorgiou's classes.

-Sign up via the website (descriptions listed below each volunteer job) and you can send an email to ask any questions.

-Friday Night Fun Fair - a carnival held near the end of year: every family volunteers for 1 hour at some point in the evening.

Website: mechniepac.ca

Hot Lunch/Pizza Lunch Update

-C'est Mon Cafe will deliver first lunch Monday, Sept. 26. (Monday and Wednesdays are hot lunch days). C'est Mon has been our meal provider for approx. 6 years. We have looked at other providers in between and they haven't been able to offer as much. C'est Mon provide individually packed lunches and have recently expanded their menu. They are flexible with regard to feedback and modifying orders. Parents need to order directly from their website. This year they require an e-transfer to confirm and complete the order. This year PAC is charging \$7.50 per meal to match a price increase from the vendor.

-Pizza lunches run on Fridays and will start Friday, October 7. Ordering via Munch-a-lunch starts soon. Milk and choc milk now available. Pizza cost remains at \$5.

-Sophia Kai our new hot lunch coordinator - only 40 orders so far, need to advertise

-Gr 7 's will help deliver to the classrooms.

Question about providing hot lunch every day?

-That can put extra demands on school (Grade 7 volunteers, mess, etc.)

-In past, it's only happened 2/3 days a week.

Fruit and Veggie Program

- School bringing back fruit and veggie program (sponsored by province). Starts October 19.
- Once a week (Wednesdays) they deliver a specific fruit for every student as a recess snack.
- Expose kids to fruits/veggies they may not have tried before.
- Sophia Kai and Tiffany Lu are volunteering to distribute. PAC paid for their foodsafe program.

Other Items:

Parent Social - October 12, 7-10 pm at Milltown bar and grill. Parents only!

Watch for Evite. Intermediate parents may have kids who have taken babysitting course.

Friendship Circle

Debbie Lin said when she came to school 3 years ago it was hard to meet other parents. Then Covid. Last year, with things finally opening up, she started a casual friendship circle. Idea is to grab a coffee, go for a walk, chat and socialize. It's been good and will continue this year. Next week hoping to host coffee/treats in backyard. Let her know if you're interested and she'll add you to Whats App group.

In person/Zoom PAC Meetings

- PAC decided to meet in person for first PAC Meeting because at last June's AGM it felt good to connect in person. However, it's also easier for many people to take in a Zoom meeting, and tune in while having it on the background.
- Suggestion to alternate in person/zoom PAC meetings met with general agreement.

Direct Drive

-It's a major fundraising drive for McKechnie that starts up in Oct. Every penny goes right into McKechnie. Ex: funding the smartboards in all classes and library, garden project funding, etc.

Parent Alfred Chin spoke about a free tutoring program he works on, through a partnership with the VSB in some East Van schools. Also a high school program about financial literacy, and also an idea about kids donating cash to a cause (school) in lieu of presents. He is running for school trustee in the upcoming municipal elections.

-Asked to forward his program contact info to the school

Moved Simon Sun **Seconded** Navi Sihota to approve June 14 PAC Minutes

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm

Next PAC Meeting will be held on November 24 at 7pm