

Minutes - McKechnie PAC Meeting, November 24, 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 next VSB PD day was all about an Indigenous focus in education and that she was grateful teachers in the district were learning about this.
- Parents can look on mckechniepac.ca under Parent Resources for further information.

Principal's Update - Michael Singh

Winter Musical Wednesday, Dec. 14-Everyone very excited that it's up and running again!

- School will be busy for next few weeks, Ms. Koke and Mr. D rehearsing with students, Mrs. Chang working on costumes..

Sports - Volleyball- Sr. boys finishing off season and will start in playoffs at Magee next week.

- Basketball starts in January. Lots of interest, hopefully enough for a Sr. girl's team too.
- World Cup viewing in gym at lunch.

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

- Writing Program with Nancy Hundal on Wednesdays after school
- Lights Up - Starts in January (day uncertain because basketball teams need gym too)
- Mandarin Class starts Feb. Hope to have class/day of week settled by Dec. 2.
- Robotics group starting in the New Year too, hopefully.

Spirit Wear- To be sold again. This year, higher quality hoodies and crewnecks. Orders will be sent out before the holidays but won't be received until January.

- Will check on whether wear can be customized (name added.)

Student/Family Affordability Fund - Provincial government providing a one time grant to all schools in the province. Amount based on student population. McKechnie will receive \$25000

- Focus of fund is to support basic needs (Food, Nutrition and Clothing) of some families.
- Remainder of funds go to help support all families through sponsorship of programs that school usually charges a certain amount for. So, Ultimate frisbee, Saleema Noon sexual health workshops, field trips, etc will be subsidized over course of school year.

Current Clubs - Mr. Singh sponsoring a student-initiated **School Newspaper Club**. Will try to get first issue out before holiday break.

Audio/Visual Club (Mr. Smitna sponsor) tech support around school and at assemblies

Humanitarian Club - (Ms. Lee/Ms. Gee sponsors) recycling initiative to fundraise for charity

School Counsellor Siobhan Dowle - Open Parachute Program - goal of program is to promote student well being. Intermediate classes are doing work from this, but resources appropriate for many ages.

- Also provides comprehensive self-guided lessons for parents on many topics (self-esteem, bullying,etc.) Short audio and video clips and quick take-aways provide practical parenting tips.

https://learn.openparachuteschools.com/parent/login?id=CA_3_V2SvPodpxKq1yMuM18

Treasurer Report - Simon Sun- Highlights from McKechnie PAC Financials to end of Oct

- Hot Lunch 2x week brought in \$957, better than budgeted so far.
- Pizza lunch (+milk), every Friday, earned \$358, slightly lower than budgeted, but PAC Exec deliberately decided not to increase price for parents, despite vendor price increase.
- Note: Budget will need to be adjusted as some items (Sports Day snacks, for example) will now be subsidized by the school through the Family Affordability Fund.

Direct Drive Results- Jennie Mickelson - It took a while, but we got there! Reached goal and raised just over \$21 000. Great result, especially in this inflationary year.

- Leah noted PAC will try and make an occasion of the launch next year, through a Spirit Day, to try to improve awareness about DD.
- As well, in Newsletters hoping to add a monthly photo of “Your Direct Drive dollars at work”
- Thank you Jennie (and Ada for all the translating) and the whole McKechnie community for coming together in support of the school
- Because of Student/Family Affordability Fund, Direct Drive funds might be spent more on technology and the Garden Project as well as other items not supported by the SFAF.

Volunteer Update - Leah Collings

- Family photo night will need volunteers in Feb. Reach out if you want to volunteer for anything.

Holiday Hamper Program - Angie Kovaks - We are supporting X'pey elementary again, a local Indigenous focus school. Over the last few years we've donated gift cards for Superstore near the school so families can choose how to spend the money. Will be done through School Cash Online. Announcement will be sent out and we'll collect until Dec. 8.

- Thanks Angie for coordinating the Hamper Program.,
- In past, Hamper prog also helped our McKechnie community. SFAF will go to that this year.

Hot Lunch/Pizza Lunch Update -

- Covered in budget update. Up and running since end of Sept/early Oct. Feedback welcome.

Other Items- Debbie Lin reminded parents that the McKechnie Parent Friendship Circle is continuing to meet, everyone welcome.

- Mr. Singh reminded parents to dress kids appropriately for cold weather
- On Hot Lunch days, parents are reminded to send students to school with cutlery
- Garden Project - VSB Grounds says they'll be ready to go for Spring. Shop teacher at Magee will help get the garden boxes built. Should all be ready for Spring planting!
- In case of snow day, check school website. District usually decides by 7am. Also listen/watch local news channels.
- No hand washing policy, masks optional, so please keep kids home if sick and do everything possible to keep from spreading cold/flu/Covid during the season.

Moved Leah Collings /**Seconded** Navi Sihota to approve September 22, 2022 PAC Minutes Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 pm. Next PAC Meeting will be Jan. 12 at 7pm.