

Minutes - McKechnie PAC Meeting, January 12, 2023

Erin Yorke - 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. Link to story about pole: 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

Winter Musical Review- A great success and a nice turnout! Thanks to Mr. D, Ms. Puil, Ms. Koke, Mrs. Chang for all their efforts as it was a "whole school" endeavour. Thanks to parents for coming out and also for supporting Musical via Direct Drive funds, some of which went to cover costs for costume, lighting, etc. Food donations collected at event went to Marpole Food Hub on 70th.

- Now everyone back at it. Happy New Year! Term ends and report cards coming out Jan. 31.

Sports - Basketball underway. Sr. Boys (Mr. Singh coaching) and Jr. Girls (Mrs. Chang/Ms. Lum Tong coaching) teams. Schedules now out and posted on bulletin board outside gym. Intermediate students are doing scoring and timing and their schedules will be posted there too. Typically Sr. is Grade 7 and Jr. Grade 6, but Sr. Boys team includes Grades 5 and 6's because our school is small. Jr. Girls has Grade 5's and 6's.

-Grade 4&5 boys and girls will play in the Spring in the gym at lunchtime.

After School Programs- Young Rembrandts - Continuing on Tuesdays after school

-Writing Program with Nancy Hundal continuing on Wednesdays after school

-Lights Up - Musical Theatre, started Thursday, January 12.

-Mandarin Class starts Feb. Two classes will run on Thursdays after school.

-Robotics group starting in the Spring. See upcoming newsletter for more details.

-Update: Before School Band Program. At this time there are no plans to bring it back. Most after school programs supplement school programming we don't already offer (like Mandarin, Robotics...). McKechnie does have a robust music program. Mr. D a fab music teacher who teaches singing and many different instruments. If parents want band/strings they can take it up at Magee. Though not as close, it's free of charge. Magee program builds a broader school community, including Maple Grove students and Magee high school students. Magee band program benefits from elementary student participation.

Spirit Wear - sales start again soon. Youth sizes: hoodies in royal blue with full sized logos. Adult sizes: crew necked sweatshirts in navy blue, hoodies in grey. T shirt sales to come in Spring, prior to Track and Field start up.

Student/Family Affordability Fund - Provincial government provided this one time grant to all schools in the province. Has helped subsidise gingerbread houses, centrepieces and holiday hampers for families at school. Will also help fund upcoming Grouse Mountain field trip.

- Big Thanks to Angie Kovats and McKechnie families for helping sister school X'Pey through the hamper program
- Direct Drive funds used to purchase 20 student laptops.

Staffing - We have 3 new staff members at the school, all school support workers (SSA's). They are: Noriko Yoshida, Dragana Hajduk (a former parent,) and Alice Warren (covering Maternity leave until end of year). Mr. Singh will try to profile them in the next newsletter.

- Mr. May retired in December but is at school until end of January to help out.
- Ms. Koke looking for parent volunteers in library to help keep the books organised. Please talk to her if interested.

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

Hot lunch (twice a week from C'est Mon Cafe) generated \$2,322 profit between the last week of September and the second week of December. We project the revenue of the whole school year will be close to \$6,600. This will be higher than the budgeted amount of \$5,000.

Pizza lunch (once a week from Pizza Hut) generated \$945 profit between October 7th and December 16th. This includes both pizza and milk. Based on this, the revenue is estimated to be close to \$3,400 which will be lower than the budgeted amount of \$5,000

-Note, decrease in profit is due to the cost of each pizza having increased by \$0.50 after we started. We chose to keep the price the same as last year.

-Total estimated revenue from the two programs will be close to budgeted amount of \$10,000.

-Other budget activity was a retirement gift to Mr. May. (Gifts typically done at end of June).

Volunteer Coordinator - Leah Collings

Will have Family Photo night Feb 13 and 14 (families come and pay to have a photo taken). Will need 3-5 volunteers.

-Other volunteers are needed in library. Speak to Ms. Koke if interested.

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).

C'est Mon Cafe is still working on the menu so Feb-Jun order form will be available soon.

Parents will receive email reminders when the order form ready!

C'est Mon Café is no longer providing cutlery with meals. Many students do not bring their own

Please send cutlery with your child on hot lunch day!

C'est Mon cancelled Jan 16 hot lunch due to Pro-D Day so if you paid for it you will need to deduct one meal charge from your future order payment

Pizza Lunch Update

Thank-you Christina and parent volunteers for supporting the pizza lunch! Big thanks to Mr. Singh and Grade 7's for helping to distribute it.

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. Next delivery is on Wednesday, January 25th. Fruits & veggies are given out at 10:30am(recess time) and if there are extras, we serve them during Hot Lunch. Kids have been enthusiastically eating all their fruits & veggies!

Holiday Hampers Wrap Up - Thanks to Angie Kovats for coordinating this program!

McKechnie families donated \$1930 and the PAC topped it up for a total of \$2430 for X'Pey, our Indigenous focused sister school. Angie purchased gift cards in \$50 for Superstore, which is close to X'Pey. Families can purchase a wide range of items there. School counsellors hand them out as needed and will probably hold on to them until January, when especially needed.

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

Friendship Circle Debbie Lin - McKechnie Parent Friendship Circle should meet in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, 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>

Upcoming Events

Magee Market Fair on February 10, 5:30-8:30 - in support of their Music Program.

Family Photo Night Feb 13 &14 - have photos taken with your family for Valentine's Day!

Election to PAC Executive

Navi Sihota, previous PAC Co-Chair, had to move schools and this has created a vacancy.

Leah Collings nominated Joyce Minami to the position of Co-Chair, McKechnie PAC

No other nominations were submitted.

Moved Leah Collings/**Seconded** Victoria Jay to formally elect Joyce Minami to role of Co-Chair of McKechnie PAC

Motion carried.

Erin welcomed Joyce, saying she has some great ideas! Erin probably moving out of Co-Chair role in June, and is happy that Joyce is stepping in now.

Joyce thanked PAC members, saying she was excited to become more involved..

Questions and Comments

-Question: What school sport comes after basketball?

- Badminton and Ultimate

- Mr. Singh said he could do Badminton if parents are interested in coaching (no staff available).

- There was Badminton in past, so equipment should still be there.

- Will check to see if student interest in Badminton and Ultimate, then look for parent coaches.

- After Spring Break Track and Field starts.

- Ultimate PE unit booked for Spring.

- Question about having a Dance Unit this year?
- Mr. Singh said he was In touch with contacts to try and set up for next if not this year.
- Angie Kovats provided some history of Dance at McKechnie. In past, brought in dance instructors (Jess Dance) for a 1 week unit for whole school. PAC paid for much of it. Different genre every year (Bhangra, Hip Hop, African Dance...) Very popular.
- Last time (pre-Covid) split into primary and intermediate groups, with different instructors.
- Mr. Singh thought it sounded like it was received well and he would look into bringing it back.

- Upcoming PAC Meeting might be online or in person. If in person, babysitting is provided.
- Question about Red Cross babysitting class offered at school on a Pro D day?
- This happened in past: parents paid, but school organized and brought in someone from Red Cross. Students have to be 11 years old.
- Mr. Singh did receive email about this, will look into and try and book them for future Pro D.
- Also: Red Cross Home Alone/Home Safe Program

Moved Leah Collings/**Seconded** Naomi Johnson, to approve the Nov, 24, 2022 PAC Minutes Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Next PAC Meeting will be February 23 at 7pm.

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