

ECOLE SECONDAIRE HUGH MCROBERTS PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

14 September 2018 Minutes

Parents in attendance: Sandra Clark, Hugo Madeira, Sheryl Jerstad, Li Ping Magnussen, Winnie Loong, Bal Sidhu

Administration in attendance: Neil Kamide

Meeting started 7:05 pm.

- 1) Welcome and introductions
- 2) Minutes from May 16 2018 meeting were reviewed. Motion made to adopt (Sandra) and seconded (Sheryl), all in favour.
- 3) School Administration Report
 - a) Feedback requested about how to attract more parents to become involved in the PAC. Tonight's turnout is lower than usual, and likely not enough to have a quorum needed to vote on issues raised. This is an ongoing problem at most schools, not unique to McRoberts. Tonight's meeting date may have been too soon in the school year for parents to have caught up with notices and communication from the school (usually many grade 8 parents attend the 1st meeting).
 - b) Discussion about graduation requirements, phasing out of provincial exams and replacement with numeracy and eventually literacy exams. (These cover basic competencies and students have more than one opportunity to pass.) Many Richmond students (ie. especially ELL) will have some difficulty with this as the tests are very language-based. It is unknown still whether universities will start to require a certain score on this. Social studies 11 is going to divide into multiple options such as Law, Geography, History and all will be labelled Grade 12 level. Grad Transitions has been a required credit based on completion of the Planning course plus an interview in April of grade 12. This is changing to Career Life for current grade 10s, and will be an enrolled course. They are still trying to decide whether current grade 11s will be required to take the Career Life 12 course as one of their Grade 12 enrolled courses, which would take up one of their 8 blocks in their final year. Decision will be made on this soon and info provided.
 - c) 'FESL' (Framework for Enhancing Student Learning) which replaced the School Planning Councils, is still not working. Teachers' union is telling teachers not to participate, so it becomes a meaningless process. Schools have to rethink this, and will ask for parent input at some point.
 - d) Need to set meeting soon for this year's Dry Grad Committee. Previous organizer/chair (Heather Nicholaas) may have some of the information binders.
 - e) Grade 8 camp now to be held at Stillwood, as they didn't want to hold it the 1st week of school and Elphinstone was not available later in September. Last year too many

kids didn't go (41) which may make them feel left out later. School tried to offer 'fun' activities for the 30 who are choosing not to go this year, but students preferred to stay home.

- 4) Executive Election: -will postpone to October meeting due to low turnout of parents. (Motedioned by Sandra and seconded by Bal). Secretary position is vacant (Sheryl has moved out of district), but other positions currently have volunteers willing to fill. (The 3 primary positions of chair, treasurer and secretary must be filled to qualify for gaming account funding).
- 5) Committee Reports:
 - a) Treasurer: Miwa was unable to attend but provided account balances. Some of last year's wish list items have not come out of the gaming account yet (waiting for bills, but estimates we have \$ 2,000-\$3,000 remaining once they're settled).
General account: \$4,299.20
Gaming account: \$14,050.53
 - b) Secretary: We have received thank you letters from our 5 recipients of the 2018 PAC scholarships (\$500 each) and photos to be posted. Some fundraising options received will be passed along to the Dry Grad Committee for consideration.
- 6) Open Forum:
 - a) Reminder that PAC was to consider increasing our Dry Grad contribution of \$2500 to \$20 per graduating student, which would be \$3500 if we have 175 students. (This figure is used by some other Richmond schools, as we found out last year. This equates to what is received per student from provincial gaming revenues in recent years.) Will discuss this when budget decided.
 - b) Discussion of university requirements and high school course selection (some now wanting 6 grade 12 academic courses with high average scores > 94%), plus the value of inquiring early about programs (CUE events) and even taking tours of various campuses. Pressure to make big life decisions is difficult for teens and some would benefit from not planning on university entrance immediately after graduation. However, those who choose to work, travel, or go to a different college or trade program sometimes feel like they've failed in comparison to their peers. Discussion of the diminished value of undergraduate degrees, although it has become a minimum requirement in many fields. Some university instructors have minimal education training ("an optional 2 week course") and achieving a degree may not lead to work in that field.
 - c) Grade 10 English options: If a student takes one option this year, do they have to take the other next year? –No, the 2 streams will merge in grade 12. You don't have to continue in the chosen option in Grade 11 either.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30