

École secondaire Hugh McRoberts Secondary School

PAC Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 7:00pm in School Library

1. Welcome & Introduction (Hugo Madeira - PAC Chair)

Guests: Neil Kamide (Principal), Paula Stone-Charlton (Vice Principal), Aviva Vaughan (Vice Principal), Lynn Archer (SD38 Assistant Superintendent).

2. Review & Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

Moved, seconded, carried.

3. School Administration Report

- a. **School Incidents:** Admin are not allowed to comment on ongoing investigations. Safety & care of students are paramount.
- b. **Term 1:** First term marks will soon be available on the parent portal. Gives a snapshot of student's progress. Grade 12 marks will be submitted for early applications.
- c. **Sports:** All McRoberts teams are performing outstandingly.
- d. **LET Days:** Students are working in multi-age groups of 23 to 24 students exploring life education & career education. On LET Day #3, grade 8 students learned about volunteering within the school community. Grade 9 & 10 students attended a volunteer fair. Grade 11 students learned video interview skills. Grade 12 students reviewed their transcripts, learned about scholarship opportunities and liaised with the school Admin & counseling team. All students have the opportunity to develop leadership, mentorship & self-reflection skills.

4. Dates To Remember

November 14 - LET Day
November 15 - Collaboration Day
November 22 - Pro-D Day
December 13 - Term One Report Cards
December 18 - Locker Clean Up
December 19 - LET Day
December 20 - Wednesday Schedule/Breakfast With Santa (late start)
December 23 to January 3 - Winter Break
January 6 to 15 - Grad Photos
January 8 - PAC Meeting at 7:00pm

5. Executive Elections

The newly elected 2019-2020 PAC Executive Committee is as follows:

Position	Name
Chair	Hugo Madeira
Vice Chair	Sophia Zhang
Treasurer	Seema Sandhu
Secretary	Colleen Cheung

6. Entertainment & Activity Stations

- a. Treasurer Report - no report
- b. Secretary Report - Meeting minutes will be posted on the school website, Parents section, PAC section. New email address for PAC is mrobertspac@gmail.com
- c. Dry Grad Report - Next meeting is December 4 at 6:00pm at the school library. Meeting minutes & event updates will be posted on the school website, Parents section, DAG section, Updates section.

7. Old Business/New Business

Please see the attached detailed notes on Boundary Changes provided by Ms. Stone-Charlton.

a. Boundary Changes

School Board vote on boundary changes is on **December 11, 2019 at 7:00pm** at their monthly public Board meeting. Evaluation of the following south central high schools: Palmer, McNair & McRoberts.

This will affect new incoming McRoberts students as of September 2020 **EXCEPT** if you already have a sibling at McRoberts. Those grandfathered students may choose to attend the current or new catchment.

Note: French Immersion is a program of choice and may be placed at any location.

Lynn Archer shared that the boundary changes aim to: "(1) align geographical regions i.e. with the roads (2) avoid split catchments (3) implement the best use of space of schools."

- b. **Long Range Facility Plan** (School Closure?) - School Board has not made any decisions on consolidation of schools.
- c. **Parent Info Session** - Report Cards & Communicating Student Learning. Thursday, December 5 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm at Brighthouse Library. Mandarin translation available.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:00pm – General Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Contact Us: mrobertspac@gmail.com

Meeting Dates, Meeting Minutes, Contact Info on the Web: <http://mroberts.sd38.bc.ca>

PAC Meeting – November 14th, 2019 **by Paula Stone-Charlton**

Attendance: just under 100 parents/students (some from elementary feeder schools)

Boundary Changes—Questions:

Lynn—

- Board is voting about proposed boundary changes in the December board meeting
- These decisions will be implemented in September 2020, but no other decisions are being made at this time

Parent response—

- Sounds like it's the first step towards closure
- Consolidating McRoberts and McNair is written in the language for 2021
- What do you mean by long range plan?
 - First step right now is the proposed boundary changes
- What's the reason for this move?
 - Proposed decision for boundaries is to create regions, aligning boundaries, to follow central roads. One major consideration is to have catchments that are not split (presently have many at the elementary level)

- o Hope to alleviate this with these boundary changes so that all students from a specific elementary school go to one secondary school
 - o Looking at geographical regions, where major roads exist
- If we don't agree with these catchment changes, how do we impress this upon the board? Other than going online to complete the survey?
 - o Everyone got the letter on Oct 21st and the Let's Talk website is open until Nov 15th—one way to present your feedback. Can also send a letter to Lynn, Principal, superintendent. Add any questions and concerns. Your info will also be collect from tonight.
- If the boundary changes are voted through then there are no more French Immersion students coming into McRoberts?
 - o No this is not correct
- Wondering about French Immersion as well. Most likely if a school is closed, it will be McRoberts. So what happens with the FI program if McRoberts closes?
 - o Nothing has been decided about what happens next after boundary changes
 - o Can't say what school will be closed and where the FI will be placed
 - o Single track school for FI doesn't actually work, so not being considered, have not heard anything
 - o Honestly don't know which school will be closed
- Just to get it straight, just the boundary change is being discussed right now?
 - o FI is not part of what's on the table
- In terms of split catchments in elementary schools, what is the issue with that situation? In terms of numbers we are talking about FI being portable, but we are not talking numbers, we are talking children (slapping parents). Long-term facility plan, #s that affect a lot of people. Established friendships, relationships, connections, etc.
 - o Wherever you live, you are grandfathered to the present catchment school
 - o I acknowledge that (what you are saying) just want to make sure everyone understands the guidelines around this proposed boundary change, you do have those options
 - o Understand that relationships have been made and we want them to make these connections to benefit them for life
 - o We know in BC, it is a much healthier, happier situation for kids to not be in split catchment situations
 - o We have a responsibility to ensure the best possible education for children, I acknowledge that sometimes it looks like we have not looked at what's best for your child
- My child is in the English program, I disagree that the FI program should be treated differently. With the LRFPP have they looked at the Richmond community plans and the location of community facilities, and it will have an impact if the school is not located near the community center.
- Would like to know more about the proposed boundary changes and the LRFPP changes.
 - o LRFPP has to be broken down into smaller components, can't make all changes at the same time. First small step in the journey of the LRFPP, right now it's just these small pieces:
 - Look at major roads
 - Remove split catchments
 - Regional information that impacts schools
 - o Nothing has been kept off the table regarding proposed boundary changes
- Although letters went out to parents only in the impact areas, that's not good enough as all catchment kids are being impacted, steps are already underway without consultation with the school community. Our community is whole, South Arm is part of our community, and this will erode the success of our community. As a whole that is the nut of it.
 - o Thank you for expressing that concern and I will take it back. Consideration for LRFPP
- As an FI parent, I feel like we have not been heard, our voice has not been heard, we live in East Richmond, almost in Hamilton area and drive our kids to McRoberts because it is a great school , huge # of students in this program, half of FI secondary students in Richmond (340).
 - o This will absolutely be taken into consideration, and we value, along with McRoberts admin, McR community, next steps of process there will be an opportunity for people to provide feedback
- Broadmoor is a growth area and how can we take this area that has opportunity for growth, and not have a secondary school in this area
 - o I will bring this info back
- Why are we moving students out of this catchment as it's basically moving students to another area, away from McRoberts?
 - o Depending on what is decided, those boundary changes would occur without any consolidation. Aligning to split catchment, geographical regions and aligning to the streets
- Everyone can see that you are moving kids out of McR, but central doesn't mean more accessible.
 - o There is a plan, a LRFPP, but what that will look like has not been determined. Your feedback is therefore important. Purpose is to align the catchments.
- Contact the BC Minister of Education with feedback, he has no plan to close any public schools in BC (parent read info from a statement). If you close the school, it affects everything around us. It affects the daycare nearby.
- How does it geographically make sense for kids to cross to arterial roads in order to go to their new boundary school, when they live across the street from the school. It doesn't make sense.

- o Thank you for the question. There may very well be some other boundary proposals, considerations as we get closer to the vote. Everything that you say we are taking very seriously and it will be brought back to the board.
- The issue for us is having kids in Whiteside and then older siblings attending McR, with the boundary change the kids will be farther apart and takes longer to go between schools
- The number of feeder schools going into this school if this goes through would have less students feeding into McR, so going forward it would reduce number of students at McR, right?
 - o Yes, but we don't
- So feedback to the board is what?
 - o May want to be talking about how the current proposed boundary changes will impact the number of students in future of McR.
- My concern is with the process. The prospect of McR closing down is still unknown. Feel that the info has not been shared in a transparent way. Feel we need an agreement with how we consult. And share with everyone. We all want the key elements of this community. Staff have worked hard to build these values, like relationships, sense of place, and reflected in the first peoples learning. These things should be guiding these decisions. Please come back 50 years after and share they experiences and journey. Need to extend this period of consultation to allow for more conversation. The rationale needs to be shared in a clear and meaningful way so that people understand. Is should be based on what makes sense. How can we support leadership at the school and for the district to make this happen. If the 2021 consolidation happens will it be weened off or not? (parents clap)
 - o You are asking great questions, but I don't know the answers. It is a bigger question than is being asked right now. You are asking for a longer consultation process and I will take this back. I acknowledge the great community you have, but all schools feel this way because we have wonderful schools across our district, proud of families, children and staff in our system.
- Board has miserably failed in informing the families and community. Comments, 100% in disagreement. We are the people who voted them into the board and we will have to find a way to get a solution for this.
- Questions: What is the benefit for families, for us? What is the criteria for the board to close one school and not another? I assume intake of new students, so places McR on the chopping block.
 - o 1st question: answered a number of times this evening. Three items stated before
 - o 2nd question: I can't answer that question right now.
- Who can answer? How can we get informed?
 - o I hear that ppl feel that they have not known well enough, and will bring back for next steps, regarding consultation, aim to do a better job of making sure parents are informed
- We have had no idea what's going on.
- Why was it proposed? Who proposed this change? 2nd year in high school and he's new to McR, I don't want him to change schools again.
 - o All districts are required to have a LRF, seismic upgrade is part of it. Specific requirements that have to be considered. Finance makes the decisions and has a say in how things getting decided. Thank you for sharing.
- French bubble, no one has considered.
 - o I have made it loud and clear that FI is very important to me
- Wondered if you could explain the catchment info to me, my kids are in the McR catchment area now, but may get moved.
 - o If you are in one of the designed catchment change areas then you have choice
- Seismic upgrading: why would a school like Hugh Boyd be seismically upgraded when it is under-utilized and looks like it will continue to be for some time?
 - o Schools with the highest risk are completed first, so Boyd was done early because it is a risk
- Is it possible for the decision makers to come out and hear from parents prior to the decision making date?
- Can go to the board meeting on December 11th—open to public, once per month
 - o Thank you very much for coming tonight to provide feedback, will be bringing things back to the board

Questions from parents expressed to me after the meeting:

- Has the LRF been made accessible to the Chinese community (in Mandarin)?
- Also, question the process. Most parents don't have time to read a 200 page document.