

Manachaban Middle School

Parent Council Minutes

April 23/18 6:30 - 7:30pm

1. Welcome & Introductions

Present: Tara Courte (Chair) ; Fiona Gilbert; Anne Kromm; Gerry Gaudet; Katt Hryciw; Bruce Woolrich; TR; KS; Lisa Preston (secretary)

2. Approval of Agenda: Adopted (motion by KH, 2nd by TC)

3. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on March 26, 2018 Approved (motion by KC, 2nd TC)

4. Staff update

- a Term 3 is underway, report cards went home before spring break
- b Badminton is underway, Track and Field starts in May.
- c Special Karate week is taking place for the grade 7 & 8 students this week.
- d Bamfield trip returned with all students and staff! Enjoyable trip.
- e Quebec trip will take place in 3 weeks.
- f Thursday April 26, Mrs. Maetche will be taking the grade 7 & 8 students to the band festival.
- g Tabitha Brown returns on Monday (Thanks to Mr. Holman who was teaching during her maternity leave)
- h Sexual education has begun with grade 8 students.

5. Admin Update

- a Spring Budget is finished.
- b Administration is working with the RVS Education Center on the maker space and learning commons. Admin has secured funding over 3 years to restructure space and furnish and create storage.

- c Students are using benches and high tables as break out spaces in the halls.
- d Tables in maker space came from the gym lunch hours. Now grade 6 student eat in the 6 in classroom or halls, grade 7 in halls, grade 8 can leave school. Gym is open at lunch to play. Students get a teacher to come and supervise them.
- e For 2018-19 the school is considering having spaces for students to stay inside at recess. Discussion around pros and cons of some students staying inside instead of going outside, including meeting student's needs.
- f Fee schedule is in for approval by RVS Board, (i.e. for field trips) there will be a slight increase from last year's proposed fees so unplanned opportunities can be taken advantage of.
- g School staff has met to discuss the school education plan (SEP), which is in process, and is on the 4th year of the 4 year plan. Some key areas of the plan include social/emotional support, and instructional design.
- h Intentional interventions in literacy and numeracy are planned for the grade 7 & 8 students next year. The number of option slots will increase to 3 from 2 in one term. The extra option block will be used for a different purpose each term. Health, Literacy support, and Numeracy support will each be taught during those 3 blocks, for different students in each term. Based on each student's learning needs, the students will be divided into 9 different sections for literacy, spaced over the year, and 6 different sections for numeracy. Manachaban staff are creating targeted courses for the different groups. As a result of the extra option block, there will be one less block of math and language arts in each 6-day cycle. This will be made up with the intensive time during the option block. Term one will target higher need students to allow them to be more successful. Option selection will look different this year to facilitate the changes. Staff are doing intensive literacy assessment now to help target students who need the most help. The language of instruction will be English for all sections, which will help create connections between French Immersion and English students.

6. Trustee Update

- a Joint Board School Council took place on April 12. There was a lot of good conversation and networking. One key topic was the role of school council versus the fundraising society.
- b RVS's 4 year plan is coming to an end next year, so is starting to focus on creating the next 4 year plan (which will begin in 2020-21). RVS is looking for school council/parent representatives to inform the plan. Contact Fiona if interested. The first meeting is planned for May 7.

- c Transportation consultation closed. Thanks to all the parents who responded and informed the board's decision. The Transportation Bundle that was chosen was the best supported by respondents, at (42%) and is a variant of bundle number 1. In 2018-19, urban students will be picked up on rural routes, busses won't enter as many rural cul-de-sacs, and double busing will be used. Many parents gave feedback that they did not want to lose their early dismissals and Fridays, and the board was able to find a way to retain the early dismissal on Fridays by tweaking schedules. New bell schedules will be decided at the division level instead of by school administrators to allow for these cost savings. Not much change anticipated in Cochrane area. Times are committed to being told to parents by June 30. Aiming for earlier for admin teams.
- d Budget work is underway. Focus on direct classroom instruction, complex needs, mental health and literacy/numeracy. Note that money from the province is down relative to enrollment numbers. The provincial budget will come to the board on 17th of May. Board needs to approve all school fees, and the minister then approves. Fees can increase by 5% without ministerial approval. Fees for next year must be posted on school website by June 30. Charges that follow can not exceed this amount published.

7. New Business - none

Treasurer Update

- a The 2 cheques written against the account have come out, and the current balance is approximately \$8000.
- b Casino funds have been used to pay for bussing and equipment in hallways. T-shirts are ok to be covered by school since the Fundraising committee paid for the others.

8. Old Business

- a Canadian Parents for French: Next meeting May 6, 2018; Location TBD, perhaps at residence of president (PH).
- b Staff Appreciation Lunch; Thursday June 7. Marla Bosch will spearhead. Gluten intolerance and nuts are food issues.

9. Adjourned at 8:00

10. Next meeting: May 28, AGM in September.