

MINUTES



Homma PAC Meeting

January 17, 2022

6:30 pm – 7:50 pm

Hosted on Zoom: <https://ubc.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 620 8850 6171

Passcode: 012022

PAC Executive:

Anna Reithmeier, Chair

Penny Leggo, Vice-Chair

Marcie Beggs, Treasurer

Jennifer Tham, Secretary

In Attendance: Anna Reithmeier; Jen Tham; Derek Cherry; Carla; Sharmila; Sue-Ann Reidy; Kevin Vines; Shazia; Cathy; Linda Waithman; Mike and Tess Lengyell; Penny Leggo; Tawnya; Marcie; Dale Hines; Allan Dorff; Sonja Golchin; Carla Day

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
6:30 to 6:40 PM	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome <p>Anna: Land acknowledgement for First Nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of agenda• Approval of this list of items to become our agenda <p>Jen approved, Sharmila seconded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of minutes from November <p>Jen approved, Penny seconded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RDPA representative? <p>Anna: Homma does not currently have a representative for RDPA. If anyone is interested in attending on Homma's behalf, please let Anna know via email at hommapac2015@gmail.com</p>	Anna Reithmeier
6:40 to 7:00 PM	Update from the Homma School Admin Team Derek Cherry Principal <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grateful for a warm welcome from students/staff.• A short bio as Derek is new to Homma: Richmond educator for 26 years and is primary trained (Grade 1-3); Worked as a Vice Principal at Woodward and Spul'u'Kwuks. Was Principal at General Currie.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Has an open door policy and happy to connect with parents via email/phone call.○ Has 2 kids (20 year old at University of Windsor and 15 year old) and grew up in Castlegar, BC.○ Enjoys fly fishing.○ Previously coached with Richmond minor hockey and Richmond Ravens, but is now coaching in Surrey where he currently lives.	Derek Cherry Kevin Vines

Staffing update from Derek:

- Welcome Jenny covering Esther's maternity leave.
- Welcome Julie Strong (Permanent EA).
- Goodbye to Monica Lai and welcome back Sarah Bird from maternity leave.

Healthy and Safety update:

- Kevin: Continue to provide health and safety measures under the guidance of public health.
- Derek: Thank you to parents for keeping kids at home the first week after winter break, admin recognize that this was not easy. A reminder to follow the daily health checks and to keep kids at home if they are not feeling well. It is important to provide a safe environment for kids and teachers. Make sure to touch base with kids each morning.
- Kevin: All classes had a review of health and safety with powerpoint supplied from public health with a reminder to washing hands, appropriate respiratory hygiene etc. There has been an updated washroom protocol with occupancy limits and a plan in place to ensure no crowding at entry ways.
- Kevin: Shared a Homma safety video which has been shown in the classrooms. This video highlighted the new bathroom occupancy limits and to follow directional arrows on the floor to direct traffic and for kids to space out to wait if occupancy limits were reached.
- Derek: Staff and students doing a fantastic job following health and safety protocols. New directional arrows were added in the hallways and wrap around gyms. The goal is for everyone to travel in 1 direction around the school to avoid classes having to pass each other in hallways. Teachers reorientated the desks to try to avoid students sitting across from each other.
- Staff are supervising kids from 12-12:15pm to remind kids to wash hands before eating, remind them to stay at their desks while eating and to remind them to put masks back on when they are done eating.
- Kevin: Staff took the first week of the year to prepare for functional closures, think of classroom activities which can be done remotely and prepare materials for TOC's to step in if need be. Microsoft teams video call Links were set up in case the school needs to pivot to online learning.
- If functional closures occur and any families need to borrow a device to access online

learning please contact the school. These are available, please ask the admin/office and they will ensure it is sent home.

- Derel: Admin staff need to call families to follow up on school absences (is it due to COVID etc. how long will they be away). A reminder when parents/guardians call in an absence for them to state the reason for the absence and how long they plan to be away. This will help the school admin staff to know who they need to call back. The district is tracking this information closely and relays this messaging to public health.

Questions for Admin:

- Shazia: Assuming the attendance rate for Homma is monitored? Where are we sitting now? Derek answered: Currently less than 10%.
- Cathy: Make sure parents/guardians really identify why their kids are away (appointments etc.) to simplify things. Question: Why didn't we move to cohorts this time around to separate kid for the lunch breaks? Derek answered: Under provincial guidelines there are no more cohorts and the recommendation for staggered breaks in the first place was to prevent crowding at school entrances/exits. At Homma each class has their own exit/entry points so this issue is negated. If we went to staggered lunches then students would likely not have supervised lunch due to teachers needing their own breaks. When looking at outdoor time, kids are spread out on the large playground, garden area and field. Kids are mostly playing only with their own age groups anyways and 40-50% are wearing masks. The feedback from the teachers was that they really wanted to prioritize supervised lunch time instead of staggered break times.
- Tanya: How are teachers feeling about the current situation? Derek answered: teachers are feeling that this [COVID] is long, they are working together and continue to support the health and safety protocols and are moving forward to try to provide the best education for kids. A sense of normalcy with return to school and routines have help families and kids feel settled.
- Linda: Are there Rapid Tests available for kids who are sent home sick? Derek answered: If kids have symptoms Homma can offer a take home gargle test which can be processed at Lifelabs. The test kit can only be offered to kids who get symptomatic at school. No rapid tests have been supplied to Homma yet and no idea when these will be provided.
- Allan: What is the air filtration system – What do we have now and what is the plan? Derek answered: We have filters changed on a regular basis in current system.

	<p>The air exchangers are running at full capacity. No HEPA filters in the school at the moment. There have been questions around the filtration system moving from a MERV 8 to a higher filtration system, but right now Homma is using the MERV 8. We have the highest filtration that the current system is providing. Doesn't know the answer for how good the air filtration system is, thinks Homma's system is fairly current due to the building's age. Staff are also keeping windows and doors open.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue-Ann: Asking about basketball for Grade 6/7. Derek answered: Basketball on hold at the moment due to staff concerns about mixing kids from different classes in the gym and how it is not the best at this time. • Carla: High school kids are currently practicing and playing basketball. Derek: Differences might be that high schoolers are mostly double vaccinated, most elementary kids are only single vaccinated. <p>Important Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derek: Jan 31 Professional development day was omitted from the Calendar last May. There is a Professional development day on Monday Jan 31st. • Kevin: During the week of Feb 7-11 students will be shown a 60 min video play/shadow puppetry put on by Oopsie Theatres. The theme is Growth mindset. On Friday there will be a virtual Question and Answer session with the performer. • Derek: Feb 8th at 7pm: TEAMS information session about McMath High school for grade 7 parents and kids. Link will be sent out. 	
<p>7:00 to 7:15 PM</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising update • Gazebo update • Marcie: In December PAC wrote \$10,000 cheque for the gazebo from the gaming account funds. • Raised ~\$12,000 so far this year (\$545 Mr. Coopers Pies, \$1,132 Poinsettia's/holiday wreaths, \$2771 Purdy's, \$7443 hot lunch, Mabel's Labels \$90). 	<p>Marcie Beggs</p>
<p>7:15 to 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Update on Hot lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharmila: No further communication from district about when hot lunches can proceed. Derek confirmed it is supposed to be until the end of the month. He will let the PAC know when the hot lunch program can resume. • Switched sushi vendor from Richmond Sushi Lovers to Takeya Sushi. • Plans for 2022 • Sharmila: Jodie will take on the hot lunch program when Sharmila leaves. Sharmila is preparing Jodie for the task. 	<p>Sharmila Lakhani</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carla asks: What happens to a meal with a kid is away? Anna answered: It would go to a student who doesn't have a lunch, or is sent to the staff room at the end of the lunch hour. It generally gets eaten and doesn't go to waste. • Anna brought up the issue of parents requesting refunds in December due to illness/absence and when parents could not go to the school to pick up the hot lunch. Those requests were granted a refund but Anna wanted to bring up that it is a lot of administrative work because a cheque is already given to vendors prior to hot lunch day. Each refunds request needs to have 4 adults working on it (Anna, Marcie, Jeff, Sharmila) with lots of emails back and forth in addition to a credit card processing fees. If families are willing and able to donate the money for hot lunch in case of an absence, the PAC would greatly appreciate this as these funds go towards important fundraising initiatives for the school and all parents are volunteering their time for these roles. 	
<p>7:30 to 7:40 PM</p>	<p>Updates to the Homma PAC Bylaws and Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda: A few of us got together and made some minor edits as it has been a long time since Bylaws were updated. Mostly minor changes were made such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The timing for finances and how the banking process has been streamlined, previously cheques needed to be photocopied and stored in the office etc. and everything is now done via electronic banking. ▪ Meeting agendas were supposed to be put out a week in advance, now the time frame has been shortened to 2-3 days. ▪ There is no longer a school planning committee and all mention of it was removed as it doesn't exist anymore. ▪ Removed the need for an annual report as everyone can reference the PAC minutes. • Linda is going to share the changes with Derek and Kevin. After the administration reviews, it will be shared with the PAC at large, posted on the PAC website and we can vote on this at the February meeting. 	<p>Linda Waithman; Anna Reithmeier</p>
<p>7:40 to 8:00 PM</p>	<p>Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna and Marcie: 3 x \$250 scholarships are given annually from the Homma PAC for graduating McMath students who have previously attended Homma. We have received thank you notes from McMath's students for their scholarships from last year: Kelvin Ling, Chloe Sloboda, and Adrian Ho. We also received their graduation photos. Will post and share these at the school along with notes from previous year's recipients. • Fundraising update for West Coast Seeds: 	<p>All</p>

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- Linda: This event was cancelled last year along with soil fundraiser. Hoping for a legacy fundraiser and this will be the first year we are trying it. The order deadline is Feb 12th. Asking about the best way for a paper reminder to be sent out? Sharmila: In the past noon hour supervisors helped photocopy and sort out in the teachers boxes. Derek: Unsure if this can happen this year as only educational and support staff allowed into the school. He is happy to send out reminder and stand alone emails highlighting this fundraiser electronically.
- Anna: It was so much work to photocopy ~550 pages. Lonni went to the school to photocopy for Mr. Cooper's pie fundraiser but it was a lot of work. Sonja had to photocopy many things for the Purdy's fundraiser. Carla suggested to share on the Homma school Instagram.

Questions

- Question: Are there any changes to PE classes? Derek answered: Doors to the gym are open and no changes from the health mandates. Kevin: Teachers are keeping activities low (not all out sprinting), all kids are wearing masks.
- Sharmila: How to order or rent band instruments? Derek: information was sent out but can send out again. Parents stated that Tom Lee and Long & McQuade are good places to rent from.
- Carla: Are any spring sports coming up? Derek: Typically the district has a track and field meet, but will be surprised if this is going ahead this year. Carla: Will there will be a track and field event for the school? Concerned about physical education for kids and the long term effects of cancelled events. Derek: Will need to connect with staff and check if there is support for this.
- Meeting ended at 7:50pm.