



MBSS Parent Advisory Council Meeting Notes

MBSS PAC Executive for 2019/2020

President: Candace McKinnon

Vice President:

Treasurer: Susan Derickson

Secretary: Laura Sharun

October 28, 2019

Attending: Candace McKinnon, Susan Derickson, Kieran Skerlec, Chantelle Desrosiers, Scott Sieben, Ann Sutherland

- 1. Meeting called to order**
- 2. Welcome new members** – no new members
- 3. Approval of agenda** – moved by Susan and seconded by Kieran
- 4. Approval of September minutes** – moved by Kieran and seconded by Candace
- 5. Reports**
 - (a) Treasurer's report** – Susan Derickson
 - Gaming Commission funds of \$29,720 were received and deposited. The amount is based on last year's school population so will be more next year. Expenditures include \$5000 for COBSS bursaries from Gaming Account and \$250 for COBSS administration fees from General Account. This leaves a Gaming Account balance of \$31,106.22 and a General Account balance of \$136.91.
 - Four letters of appreciation were received from students who were awarded PAC bursaries last year. Scott will share these with relevant parties.
 - The budget was sent out last month. It was based on last year's income (of \$30,336) and expenses. Since less money was actually received from Gaming this year it was agreed to reduce allocations for teacher requests. We will try not to spend anything out of the General Account so that there is enough for the COBSS admin fee next year, although Scott offered to pay this amount out of school funds if PAC ends up with a shortfall. Susan will revise the budget accordingly. Kieran motioned and Candace seconded to approve revised budget.
 - (b) Principal's report** – Scott Sieben
 - Sports teams: Jr Girls VB is doing very well. Soccer team ranked #1 now and will probably be #1 overall. Ended up with a strong X-C team as lots of new people came out. Football team doing well; they probably won't qualify this season as they are a young team, but are expected to do well next year. Field Hockey team is doing admirably considering that there are many novice players. Due to the

unique interests/talents of students this year, there is also a high school rodeo team and a swim team.

- Clubs: Active clubs include Grad Council, Diversity, Gardening, Debate, etc. A Christian club is about to start. There is also a Homework Club (not exactly voluntary!) held from Tues-Thurs at lunch. Scott is pleased with its impact as it is clearly useful in keeping students accountable for their work. The school will try to do more to inform parents about accessing students assignments and grades on google classrooms and other platforms used by teachers such as Jupiter and Freshgrade.
- Grad night and post-secondary night – Pleased that the turnout to these was good.
- Special Guests – MBSS was contacted by a school district in the Yukon interested in visiting the school to learn about our indigenous program. On Sept 25th, 38 people, including Grand Chiefs, were here along with reps from WFN and our SD. The groups was very impressed by what is being done here and it was useful to get their feedback too. Presenters included several of our indigenous students who talked about their experiences in the program. A notable achievement is that this past year our indigenous students had a higher grad rate (100%) than the rest of the student population.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences – Fewer parents came than hoped and the school is looking for ways to attract more people. Suggestions from this meeting included: clarifying that students are welcome to attend along with their parents; trying a different day of the week as generally these are held on Wednesdays; sending text reminder messages as not all parents are likely to be checking emails or website; providing refreshments (and advertise this).
- Implementation Day and Profession Development Days – these were held in the last month and both were productive.
 - Implementation Day is done through Ministry of Education, and is under control of the school. This time the focus at MBSS was on indigenous education and included the story of the Four Good Chiefs which is an important story for WFN, and a session on the Truth and Reconciliation Act. The agenda included a student speaker from Northern Ontario who will be the first graduate from his band; his story was moving and instructive for many staff.
 - Professional Development Day – these are held at sites across the province, with the local one being hosted in Kelowna by COTA. Teachers could also request an opportunity to do a self/group-directed learning experience and several MBSS staff chose this option. The day is driven by teachers and not by the school. COTA also has 3 Pro-Days in the summer (which allows the 2-week Spring Break). Scott is encouraging staff to participate in a Learning Carousel whereby they would present new or interesting pedagogical approaches they are using to their peers - there are really some great things being done here that should be shared and celebrated.
- Next week – It is busy with 2 cultural assemblies, Remembrance Day assembly, take Kids to Work Day for G-9s, literacy and numeracy assessments for G-10s.
- Student travel – Recent opportunities include several great Outdoor Education trips; Leadership Conference.

- Student-Teacher hosting requests – Getting more of these than usual. It seems that universities are increasingly recognizing the great teachers that we have here.
- Vaping – This is becoming more prevalent with about 200 students now known to be vaping around the school, about double from last year. Increasing concerns about health risks and it being a gateway platform are making the need for action more urgent. If students are off school property there is nothing the school can do. If products are seen at school, they are confiscated and not returned. The SD is giving considerable attention to this issue; there have been incidences of nicotine poisoning in this district. Parents are encouraged to write letters to federal and provincial governments to urge for policy changes to be fast-tracked. Suggestions for what the school can do include showing videos available on YouTube that are made by kids who have themselves become sick from vaping and are urging others to stop. Potentially PAC funds could support some sort of awareness campaign.

6. New Business

- (a) **Updating constitution** – The draft under review is from CNB as it seems more relevant than the previous MBSS constitution. Candace has marked up copy with suggested changes and Scott will scan it for sharing. Moved by Chantelle and seconded by Kieran that further discussion on this issue be tabled until the January meeting.
- (b) **Electing new Executive** – All members of the current Executive kindly agreed to stand again (President – Candace, Treasurer – Susan, Secretary – Laura). The slate was unanimously approved. The VP position remains vacant.
- (c) **BCCPAC Membership** – We could have a representative on this group. Chantelle noted that they are getting more organized. The membership fee is \$75 but it is reimbursed for those PACs sending representatives to their annual conference in April. It appears that Gaming funds can be used for the cost of membership but will need to be confirmed. Agreed that a decision does not have to be made on this issue now.

7. Adjournment

Next meeting: Monday, November 25 @ 5:45pm