

PAC Meeting

25 JANUARY 2022/ 9:30 AM / ZOOM

1. Welcome, attendance
 - a. Present: AJ Neufeld, Jerrah-Lee Broesky, Roxane Archer, Charmain Toews, Anita Terrick, Mandy Buhler, Lindsay Lepp
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - a. Approved
3. Adoption of agenda - questions/amendments
 - a. No amendments
4. Principal's report - AJ
 - a. COVID-19
 - i. Started the new year with remote learning.
 - ii. January 6/7 were utilized for remote learning preparation.
 1. 190 Chromebooks were distributed
 2. Rapid tests were distributed to families in grade 5 and 6 (voluntary)
 - iii. Announcement came that the return to school on January 17 would be in level Orange
 1. Key expectation: students are spaced 2 meters to the greatest extent possible.
 2. The spacing had minimum impact in the grade 5 and 6 classrooms.
 3. The grade 7 and 8 classrooms had a bigger impact.
 - a. An average of 25 kids per class in grade 8.
 - b. To have 2 meters of spacing in a class requires roughly 16 students per room.
 - c. Teachers created a new schedule that allowed them to create 4 sections from their 3 homerooms.
 - d. Students alternate between Band Room (8s)/Learning Commons (7s) and their homerooms.

- e. Students retain all their subject area teachers and homeroom teachers while satisfying the spacing requirements.
- f. Creative scheduling with EA support and admin coverage where necessary.
- g. We are prepared to do this as long as required but hope this is a temporary solution.

h. PAC question: What does Band look like?

- i. Answer: when students are playing their instrument they are allowed to have their masks off as long as they are 2 meters apart. We have enough spacing to do this. When students are not playing instruments they are seated 2 meters apart with their masks on.

4. PAC feedback: A parent indicated that her child is really liking this new set up.

5. PAC question: Can families still pick up rapid tests if they didn't come earlier in January?

- a. Answer: Yes, families can pick up one kit at the office. One per student in grade 5 and 6.

iv. Our Learning Commons is temporarily closed.

- 1. Students can sign out books online.
- 2. We are required to reduce the usage of shared manipulatives. We have closed the Makerspace for the time being in response to this.

v. Group work

- 1. Teachers have been encouraged to reduce the amount of group work as much as possible.
- 2. Discretion is used in each classroom to determine when movement during class instruction is appropriate.

3. PAC question: What does recess look like?

- a. Answer: many teachers have games in their rooms that are set up to be distanced, EAs run games on the board, some classrooms select a film from our streaming service, Criterion on Demand. There are still some clubs in grade 7 and 8 (writing club, art club).

- vi. Medical masks
 - 1. All staff are required to wear a Level 3 medical mask.
 - 2. Medical masks are not mandated for students.
 - a. Students have access to these masks at each entrance if they forget.
 - 3. When students are wearing a mesh/sparkle mask they will be asked to switch to a medical mask or a different well fitting mask they have at school.
- vii. Preparedness for an increase in staff and student absenteeism
 - 1. A number of contingency plans have been developed.
 - a. Operational closure: schools require a certain number of adults to operate safely. In an extreme circumstance an operational closure may be required.
 - 2. **PAC Question: When you are extremely short on subs can any adult come sub to avoid an operational closure?**
 - a. Answer: The division is hiring subs who can sub for a limited number of days. The preferred qualification is a degree but it is not required. If interested, contact HSD directly for the sub on-boarding process.
- viii. Reporting attendance to the community
 - 1. HSD is in the process of developing a division-wide process.
 - 2. The intent of this communication is for parents to make an informed decision about sending their child to school since we are no longer doing contact tracing.
- ix. Vaccination clinic
 - 1. February 3 at MMS for kids up to age 11
 - 2. Parent consent is required.
- x. Book Fair
 - 1. Will be run virtually this year.
 - 2. A link will be posted on the MMS website.
- xi. Basketball
 - 1. Not enough interest to form a team this year in grade 7 or 8.

- b. Education Minister
 - i. We have a new minister, Wayne Ewasko (MLA for Lac du Bonnet).
- 5. Treasurer's update - Lindsay
 - a. No changes.
- 6. Fundraiser
 - a. What fundraiser and when should we start?
 - i. It would be nice to purchase a picnic table by May of this year.
 - ii. Should we sell something?
 - 1. Za Pizza: sell gift cards and Za gives the school a certain dollar amount?
 - a. PAC decided not to do a pizza fundraiser as this is what MES does. We don't want to intrude on the money they make from this type of fundraiser.
 - iii. Decision: Give parents another opportunity to do the AntiFundraiser Fundraiser.
 - 1. Online Parent Portal donation is key.
 - 2. The first time we did the fundraiser this year we didn't have a lot of reminders sent out.
 - 3. Plan: AJ will follow up with HSD for Parent Portal donation option. PAC will create social media reminders for the school Instagram.
- 7. Manitoba Teachers Excellence Awards
 - a. Winners are notified in March. Maybe we will find out by our next meeting.
- 8. Morning Religious Exercises - Anita
 - a. Anita spoke with a youth pastor who connected with other pastors about our ROEs needs.
 - b. Two of the pastors reached out to AJ.
 - i. Brock Peters, Stefan Reimer are both on board to help out with ROEs.
 - ii. The plan is to book each pastor for one day per week.
 - c. Bud Penner runs ROEs from the gym - 1 grade per day Tuesday to Friday.
 - d. The current challenge is limits in terms of how many can gather for religious services.
 - i. We can have 2 groups of 25 students in a self contained space.

- ii. This is possible in the gym with the divider up.

9. New business

a. Discovery Time

- i. Planning to go ahead with grade 6 DT time until spring break.
- ii. We are working on flexible spaces for the students who do not participate.

10. Suggestions/Concerns

a. **PAC Question: How do we handle government protocols as a school? Do we advocate for the kids or do we just implement the rules as told?**

- i. Answer: Our job is to enact what is required of us. There is a balance in terms of providing a safe environment while advocating for our kids and reducing impact. We also recognize there is a broader conversation to have about the breadth of experiences our kids are missing out on both inside and outside of school.
- ii. **PAC input** - It's important to have our voices heard by the board and our trustees. Consider that there is an election coming up if you would like to see different representation.

11. Closing - schedule next meeting

- a. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 8 at 9:30 AM