

JH Sissons (JHS) PAC meeting
May 6, 2020
DRAFT Meeting Notes

Present: Graham Arts, Al MacDonald, Jeff McConomy, Jodi Lee-Lewis (William MacDonald School principal), Lisa McShane, Katherine, Annie Casson, Jeff Seabrook (William Mac), Meghan Beveridge

Regrets: Wendy Lahey, Wendy Campeau

1. Minutes

- Defer approval of Feb minutes; note March meeting or April meeting
- Circulate May minutes for approval with February minutes.

2. Principal's Report

- Update on JHS de-construction/move
 - Original deadline to pack up and move out of JHS (May 15) has been extended to **June 15**. This deadline will still be challenging as only up to 5 people can be in the school at any one time, which minimizes the amount of work that can be done.
 - Planning to start take down of JHS on July 1 (original timeline). On that date it will be handed over to the contractor. Demolition should happen on schedule (no delay due to pandemic). Total time will depend on what is found in school and other factors.
 - As JHS is being packed up, storage is becoming apparent as an issue; solutions will be sought once the scale of challenge is more fully scoped out.
- Update on class configurations at WMS
 - At William MacDonald (WMS), most JHS students will be on the second floor, except JK/K who will be in portables. This is because they work well as a group and minimizes changes inside the school.
 - Decisions about configuration and teacher assignments are to happen soon.
 - Q. With grade 8s moving to high school earlier, will the grade 5s be incorporated early into a middle years program or remain as JHS?
 - Some scheduling and program arrangements are still to be made.
 - JHS students are to remain a cohesive group. But there would be opportunities for grade 5s to participate in some WMS activities. In effect, JHS will be a guest school within WMS, but plans to be a good guest.
 - WMS and Sir John Franklin (SJF) are working together to plan for the grade 8s.
 - WMS has packed up upstairs classes in preparation for JHS kids.
 - Jeff Seabrook – positive that will have a good transition next year. Lots to be decided on programming. Going to try to maintain some of the programming with the grade 8s as well as opportunities for the 7s

who will transition the following year. They will look for opportunities to integrate schools so that they don't feel like two separate schools. Will be lots of discussions with Jodi and Graham.

- WMS works on 8 periods and JHS works on 9 periods. So there might be an opportunity for teachers from each school to work with students from the other school. There will be lots of opportunity for positive welcoming and support of all students. Want all students to have a positive experience.
- A survey will be sent to parents to seek input on important considerations for class configurations for next year.
- Update on staffing
 - There will be some small staffing changes, but nothing public yet.
 - Will also be doing a request for registration intentions (online rather than via paper as in past years) for which school next year.
 - Sorting out registrations for JK.
 - Anticipate giving a break down by grade level for expected registration at June PAC meeting.
- Afterschool program
 - WMS is in contact with ECE and YWCA. Currently WMS is not licensed for afterschool care. But this will be officially taken care of with ECE this week.
- Communications
 - JHS website information will be cross-posted to FB and Twitter.

3. Trustee's Report – Al MacDonald

- Trustees committed to providing afterschool care and bumping up the wages of caregivers.
- YK1 is seeking input on 4 questions from PACs:
 - Looking for feedback from parents on how online learning is going. Intent is to evaluate our program (not the teachers). Not all teachers are versatile online, some very versatile. Feedback would be valuable. Interested in how parents are coping.
 - Is there information that parents need to know that is not currently available? Trying to beef communications up with the YK1 PR committee. YK1 is considering doing an online town hall meeting. Likely through PACs and administration is the best way to get information out.
 - Do you have questions or concerns about the upcoming school year?
 - Would it be useful to be able to provide feedback during the summer? What information do people need/want?
- **ACTION:** These questions can be included on the JHS survey about configurations of next year (Graham will incorporate them into the online survey).
- YK1 is really trying to improve communications, especially during the pandemic and with online learning.
 - Mike Gibbons will be the contact for YK1 (link will be included on survey)
- Trustees are looking at how to continue food programs. Solution is to liaise with Yellowknife Catholic Schools (YCS) by giving out food cards through administrators to

those families in need. There are surplus monies from reduced transportation and other costs.

- **ACTION:** Please let families who are in need and might not know about the program that they can contact the school.
 - WMS is supporting some families.

4. Final comments

- Thank you for keeping things going!

Next Meeting

- June meeting will be online and follow an agenda similar to past meetings.
- More information re: school move, demolition and staffing will be provided at the June meeting.
- JHS will send a more formal announcement of the June meeting and will have a combined PAC meeting for WMS and JHS.