

## **JHS Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

### **Meeting Notes**

**Wednesday, June 3, 2020**

**Online via Zoom**

Present: Graham Arts, Al McDonald, Wendy Lahey, Jeff McConomy, Katherine Harris, Tania Hercun, Katie Johnson, Wendy Campeau, Fallon Morton, Sandra Mackenzie, Meghan Beveridge

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#### **Action Items:**

1. Graham will put out a call for parent representatives for the School renaming committee this weekend and ask for names by Friday 4pm (June 12) and send names to JHS PAC. If more than 2, PAC have a meeting to decide.
  2. Graham will put a call out for 2 parents to be part of committee to organize a farewell to JHS process. The call out will have a clear deadline.
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#### **1. Welcome and approval of agenda and previous minutes - Feb & May**

- Notes approved

#### **2. Principal's/PAC Financial Report – Graham Arts**

- **Financial report**

- financial accounting to be provided in September 2020

- **School renewal and transition to William MacDonald School (WMS)**

JHSissions (JHS) School enrollment/staff:

- 30.25 teachers were assigned in 2019. Over the year there was a drop of 20 or so kids in enrollment. September 2020 staffing is based on 2019 student numbers and (because a reduction) getting 28 teachers for September 2020.
- Social-emotional learning position is being replaced by councilors.
- In September 2020 dropping from 15 to 14 classrooms – effect of one classroom drop in teachers.
- In September 2020, JHS will have 1 councilor and 2 PSTs. WMS will have 2 PSTs. So 4 PSTs next year.

#### **Q. Possible to run tour of WMS**

- A tour of WMS is not possible now because it is closed and there is a constraint of 10 people at a time in the school. A tour is unlikely prior to September.

#### **Q. Recesses**

- Recesses will depend on school schedule and Emerging Wisely guidelines.
- Likely there will be a reduction of students in the school at any one time. Could be at school half the time. If there for full days, there would be some recesses.

- Another option would be a morning shift and an afternoon shift with time between for cleaning. If that's the case, there wouldn't be a formal recess; but could be some movement breaks.
- bottom line: respecting health guidelines.

**Q. Is there enough room at the school/portables to meet the restrictions?**

- measurements/estimates for classes and portables have been done. We believe we can fit half of the JHS students at any one time. HSS will make final decision.
- Plans are required by Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>. If plans are approved, they can become public. Revisions are likely prior to release. Still many things to consider (direction of flow, entrances, water fountains). The plans will involve teaching the kids new ways of doing things.

**Q. CEPA**

- Some activities won't be allowed. At this point we're not sure if CEPA will fall under that; we hope that it won't because of encouragement for people to be out of the land.
- The CEPA coordination position is currently out for competition as a shared full time position with another subject.

**Q. Physical Education (PE)**

- Indoor PE classes are not being considered at this time; but guidelines are changing, so not sure what it will be like in September.
- It is possible to divide the gym at WMS. It may be about scheduling. We haven't talked to Allain St. Cyr about the possibility of sharing their gym at all.

**Q. Staggered Entry**

- Might stagger start times to stagger entrance into the school.

**Q. JHS students lockers?**

- There won't be lockers for anyone. There will likely be bins for each student.

**Q. Exploratory classes**

- Students up to grade 5 follow the elementary curriculum.
- Students after grade 5 can participate in exploratory classes.

**Q. Why going ahead with construction project with COVID-19?**

- Proceeding with construction is a GNWT Infrastructure decision. It could be that they are so far into process that it could have financial, logistical, etc. consequences if it didn't proceed.
- Packing will finish by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Only recently has the number of people in the school increased from 5 to 10.
- Expect school won't come down until late August.
- Graham is happy to pass on comments/questions to Infrastructure. Graham can liaise with Mr. Lippert or Mr. Herculak but AI highly recommended following protocol which means to express concerns directly with Mike Gibbons at YK1 first and he can share parent concerns

himself with Infrastructure. This will prevent some people getting their “hands slapped” for not following protocol.

#### **Q. Wall tents**

- One of the wall tents seems small. It can be moved but it might not be big enough to meet restrictions. The bigger wall tent is in pretty rough shape and might not make the move.
- WMS has a platform and Wendy had talked to Emma about purchasing a new tent before the budgets were frozen in March. This was approved so hopefully this still can get purchased.
- Any O&M funds were carried over to the next year. There could be a conversation in September about purchasing a new wall tent.
- If ratio is 1:7 or 1:10, the small tent could accommodate the restrictions. But a proper assessment could be done once we have plans in place.
- A request was made that land based learning be a priority and that teachers are well supported with this approach.

#### **● School renaming**

- The school name does not need to change, but if there is interest in changing the name, there are YK1 procedures for how renaming could happen. A representative committee could be put together with staff, members with Indigenous perspectives, 2 parent representatives.
- A new name would have to have significance, be identifiable, and be appropriate for copyright provisions.
- The committee would determine the process for coming up with a proposal (surveys, public forums, etc.). The committee would submit a proposal to YK1. The committee have a plan ready for Board approval in October.
- **ACTION:** Graham could put out a call for parent representatives for the committee this weekend and ask for names by Friday 4pm (June 12) and send names to JHS PAC. If more than 2, PAC have a meeting to decide.

#### **● How to say goodbye to JHS**

- The farewell should wrap up by June 24<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> with some sort of event, keeping in mind the public health guidelines for maximum numbers for a gathering. Event would be manageable, safe, etc. for students and the community. Could have flag ceremony as a starting point.
- Also there is usually a farewell to grade 5s, something to recognize their elementary experience as ending.
- Also, what memorabilia keep?
- **ACTION:** Graham will put a call out for 2 parents to be part of committee to organize a farewell to JHS process.

#### **● Options for next year**

- There are 3 scenarios for next year:
  - Business as usual
  - Part time school

- No in-school schooling

**Q. If students go back part time, would there also be online work?**

- Each school has to have a plan to work with their own community. The schedule will likely be similar in all schools.
- Principals are meeting regularly to come up with ideas/plans.

**Q. Parents have expressed concerns about online learning. How is that being factored in to helping families succeed in the situation?**

- Some schools have used more paper-based approaches. Would be interested in response to online vs paper.
- One approach is “flip classroom”, where conceptual learning is delivered face to face, then students go off to do guided practice.
- If teachers are teaching in shifts and doing online work. This could lead to teacher burn out.
- We’re learning as we’re going along.
- Over the summer we’ll have the chance to dig into some innovative thinking/practice.
- Some members of PAC shared concerns with blended learning (part time school plus additional on-line learning might be unrealistic).

**Q. Has the model of one week on and one week off been considered?**

- This schedule could work from a disinfectant perspective.
- This approach might be considered elsewhere but has not been one Graham has heard being considered. We want to have students in the classroom as much/as regularly as possible.

**Q. If in shifts, is there a way to have kids in each family on the same schedule?**

- This consideration has been discussed. Trying to think of the parents’ perspective.

**Q. Will there be a timeline for when parents can provide feedback, or declare as homeschool?**

- If parents choose to homeschool, it’s a commitment for the entire year.

**Q. If a family chose to homeschool this year from JHS, could they re-enter next year?**

- Re-entry is problematic with French immersion if not being homeschooled in French. Students need to demonstrate that they are maintaining the language.
- Late immersion is designed for kids who haven’t worked in French, not for students who have skipped a year of immersion.

### **3. Trustee’s Report – Al MacDonald**

- The plan for how school will look in the fall is submitted to the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) and then to Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC), which might make approvals take longer.
- Online learning is not an ideal method of learning. Many teachers are not trained in online learning. It doesn’t address all learning styles (kinetic learners, auditory learners, visual learners).

- Expecting an announcement next week about approvals of how school will look in the fall.
- Board encourages parents to drop a line to YK1 office so that as many of the problems can be resolved as possible.
- Renaming of the school is in the hands of the superintendent, who is happy to hear from a committee.
- In the new school there could be a living memory wall of the old school. The committee could collect items over the next few months.
- Late August is start of school year. Start date has been approved and is on website. Came out in an email on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Q. Are teachers considered essential? Considered as priority for childcare.**

- Yes, along with admin staff and clerical staff, as are some PSTs.

**Q. Update on new superintendent.**

- Superintendent Metro Herculak's last day is June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- A job offer has been made for a new superintendent. A contract is being considered by candidate.

**4. Other Items**

None.