

**Archbishop MacDonald High School  
School Council & Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 27, 2023**

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**SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

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**In Attendance:**

**Parents:** Jennifer Harvey (President), Ivanka Simonovic (Vice-President), Jennifer Maskoske (Treasurer), Kat Pederson (Secretary), Fey Akinribide, Yomi Akinribide, Ayoola Akinribide, Trina Jewison, Cara Dosman, Sarah Fee, Perpetual Okoroafor, Catherine Malowany, Bhaggye Weerascerigo, Leslie Weerascerigo, Erin Smith, Teresa Hennessey

**Faculty:** Theresa Antonakis (Principal), Elise Thorne (Vice-Principal/Grade 11 Advisor), Rania Eshak (Teacher/Parent)

**Meeting Called To Order:** 6:55 PM

**Opening Prayer:** Jennifer Harvey

**Approval of September 27, 2023, Agenda:** Catherine Malowany

**Second:** Leslie Weerascerigo

**Motion Carried.**

**Approval of May 24, 2023, Minutes:** Kat Pederson

**Second:** Jennifer Maskoske

**Motion Carried.**

❖ **Treasurer's Report (Jennifer Maskoske)**

- **School Council General Account update** – Balance as of September 1, 2023, is \$8,328.61. Waiting on \$5,408.50 of funds allocated in 2022-23 to still come out.
- **School Council Casino Account update** – Balance as of September 1, 2023, is \$57,551.17. Waiting on around \$10,000 of funds allocated in 2022-23 to still come out. Need to spend remainder this year before next casino.

**Motion:** Sarah Fee motions to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the September 27, 2023, meeting.

**Second:** Erin Smith

**Motion Carried.**

#### ❖ **Principal's Report (Theresa Antonakis)**

- **2023-24 Enrollment** – Down by 7 last year. Grade 10 – 369, Grade 11 – 374, Grade 12 – 366, for a total of 1,105 students.
- **2022-23 Celebration of Excellence** – Taking place next Thurs, Oct 6. Celebrates top 20% of students who achieved honours, as well as top academic awards. The rest of the students who received honours last year will receive their certificates after that evening.
- **2023-24 Exam Weightings** – Grade 10 and 11 division finals are worth 20%. Grade 12 diplomas are back to their full, pre-Covid weighing of 30%.
- **Club Day** – Tues, Sept 12 was Club Day for students to check out the various clubs, which are 34 in total this year. Students are encouraged to get involved in clubs, as it can lead to involvement with other organizations and potentially lead to scholarship opportunities.
- **Post-Secondary Info Sessions** – The U of A came to the school on Tues, Sept 19. Mac also hosted an international university info session, i.e. how to write SATs. There is also an upcoming post-secondary carousel where other universities will be coming in to present. On Wed, Sept 26 Mac hosted a U of A evening info session. The first hour was for Grade 12 students only to talk to counsellors on how to write their application as submissions open Oct 1. The next hour parents and other grades were invited wherein the U of A answered general questions.
- **Grad 2024** – The Grade 12s had an assembly on Wed, Sept 26 about grad. Commencement will be on May 24 and the banquet May 25.
- **Europe Trip 2024** – 109 students applied to go, but Mac had to cap the registration to 49 Grade 12 students and 7 teacher chaperones. The trip will take place March 20-30, 2024, with students going to Switzerland and Italy.
- **Field Update** – Work on the field continues to be delayed as only one bid for the work required was received, and ECSD needs three bids to move forward. There will also be changes to how much of the field Mac will be able to access due to easement changes. We are hoping work will be started on the field by Spring.

#### ❖ **Chaplain Report (Theresa Antonakis)**

- This year we are having daily prayers with strong, unique themes. A new rotation with a different scripture will take place very Monday.
- The parent rosary group will be meeting again this year once Friday a month. Please see the school newsletter for dates and times.
- This year's school charism is To Know God, To Love God, and To Serve God. The district also introduced a very strong Catholic concept this year of the transcendentals. We will use concepts of the Truth, Good, and Beautiful throughout the year.
- The opening celebration/district theme this year is "Let your light shine forth." Mac lost an incredible teacher over the summer in a tragic accident, Mr. Jono Harkins, who exemplified letting his light shine. Because of him, so many people at Mac now let their light shine, too. The school is working very closely with Mr. Harkins' fiancée and family and will continue to remember him this year through various events.

❖ **Peer Support (Theresa Antonakis)**

- Peer Support played a lead role this year with Grade 10 orientation. They ran games through their M-10 groups and welcomed the Grade 10.
- On Tues, Oct 3 and Wed, Oct 4, students and staff can write gratitude cards to each other, which will be delivered on Fri, Oct 6.
- Starting Wed, Oct 11, there will be bi-weekly “lunch brunches” in the SRC for Grade 10 students to bring their lunch and meet/interact with their peers. These brunches will also include Halloween crafts in October and playing Uno.
- November will be self-care themed with Peer Support handing out cups with positive messages, hosting fun PLTs, etc.
- Peer Support has been asked to present at the ECSD student symposium on Mon, Oct 30 to the entire division and other high schools about what they do at Mac and the positive impact they have at their school. This is an amazing honour – congratulations!

❖ **MAC Council (Theresa Antonakis)**

- 71% voter turnout for Grade 10 rep election. Grade 11 and 12 elections were done last spring. The council will be internally electing their president and two vice-presidents during their October retreat.
- MAC It Up was held Fri, Sept 8 where students participated in basketball, bingo, karaoke, watching movies, and more.
- This week is Spirit Week. On Mon, Sept 25 the Grade 12's participated in Senior Sunrise where they enjoyed Timbits and hot chocolate, and then the whole school had PJ Day. Tues, Sept 26 was dress like Barbie & Ken day, today is wear your school colours, tomorrow is dress like Adam Sandler day, and Friday is orange shirt day for Truth & Reconciliation.
- We had Truth & Reconciliation activities this week, and the entire school will participate in next week's PLT around Truth & Reconciliation. There is no school on Mon, Oct 2 in lieu of the Saturday holiday.
- Rage In The Cage tournaments are happening in Sep and Oct. Usually 300 students turn out to watch.

❖ **IB Report (Theresa Antonakis)**

- The IB program prepares students for post-secondary learning, helping them become independent learners. If a student achieves higher than 72% in an IB subject, they will receive credit for that subject in post-secondary.
- MAC's goal is to help their IB students balance academics with personal well-being and leadership opportunities that showcase their growth as learners and their contributions to the community. This year, MAC completes their 5 year review process for IB.
- The IB coordinator is Ms Vandendooren, and the new CAS coordinator is Mr Rosselli, who will be working with the IB students to help them integrate meaningful learning experiences to create a well-rounded program. Tomorrow afternoon, Mr Rosselli will be talking to the full IB students about their CAS projects. Ms Vandendooren wants to thank SAC for their generous donation for the IB Learner Profile Award last year.

- This year MAC has 36 full IB students – 20 in Grade 11 and 16 in Grade 12. The IB program is continuing to grow, with 2/3 of Grade 11 and 1/3 of Grade 12 taking at least one IB subject. There is a fee of \$150 each year for students in Grades 11 and 12 taking IB courses. On Thu, Sept 7 the Grade 11 and 12 full IB students went on a retreat to Birch Bay.
- There is a new IB science curriculum in effect this year for Bio, Chem, and Physics. The first exam will be in 2025.

#### ❖ **Old Business (Jennifer Harvey)**

- **2022-23 ECSD Annual School Report** – PAC submitted their annual school report to ECSD in June. The report is an accounting of the types of activities PAC did for the year, including fundraising, how we spent money, etc.
- **2022-23 Staff Appreciation** – After having to move the date a few times, the staff appreciation luncheon was held on June 15, 2023, and was catered by Eagle's Nest Catering. Thank you to our volunteers who helped with setup.

#### ❖ **New Business (Jennifer Harvey)**

- **2023-24 Casino Dates** – Our casino dates are Sun, Feb 18 and Mon, Feb 19 for the Starlight Casino at West Edmonton Mall. Volunteers are needed – applications are available through PAC, and a call for volunteers will be sent out via Email as well.
- **2023-24 School Wish List** – The following items were approved by PAC for purchase through the Casino Account:

|                                                                                                            |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Replacement of 4 smartboards (\$5,000 each)                                                                | \$20,000        |
| Presentation devices for the SRC, Atrium and Scoreboard (\$1,500 each)                                     | \$4,500         |
| Bus transportation to Mass for the entire school                                                           | \$2,400         |
| Transportation to festivals for Band and Choir programs<br>(buses 3 x \$1,700 for band, \$2,000 for choir) | \$7,100         |
| Laptop and DMX module for Drama program                                                                    | \$2,250         |
| Hanging skeleton for CTS Health Fields                                                                     | \$800           |
| Supplementary Art resources for Visual Arts programs                                                       | \$750           |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                                                                                              | <b>\$37,800</b> |

**Motion:** Ivanka Simonovic motions to accept the entire wish list as listed above up to a maximum of \$38,000, to be paid out of the Casino Account.

**Second:** Sarah Fee

**Motion Carried.**

- **2023-24 PAC Fundraisers** – Ivanka Simonovic, Trina Jewison, and Perpetual Okoroafor will organize the Christmas Growing Smiles fundraiser this year and aim for a Dec 5 or 7 pickup date. Monies raised will go toward the ongoing stained glass project. We will discuss future fundraisers at the November meeting.
- **Spring 2024 Staff Appreciation** – PAC discussed whether to do a breakfast or luncheon this year. No decisions were made tonight, discussions will resume at the November meeting.

- **March 2024 Europe Trip** – Parent concerns were raised as to why there would be no fundraising for this trip. Any fundraisers done would need to run online independent from the school's business office. A request for support from the Casino account may be possible but would need to be checked with AGLC. If a trip is organized for 2025, we will revisit these ideas at the May meeting.
- ❖ **2023-24 Meeting Dates:** Meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the SRC every other month. All parents are welcome. This year's meeting dates are November 22, January 24, March 20, and May 22.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at 6:30 PM

**Meeting Adjournment:** 8:33 PM