

Hugh Boyd Secondary Parent Advisory Council Minutes- Held by Zoom, Due to Covid-19 Restrictions

April 28, 2020

Parents Present: Jill T, Pam V, Jessica, Volker H., Betsy T., Samantha C., Debbie A., Arturo Y. Arvind

Teachers Present: Ms. Mahli, Mr. Miller, Ms. Vakakis

Principal: Ravinder Johal

- 1) Welcome & Introductions – Meeting called to order by Jill at 7:02pm
- 2) Approval of Agenda for 28 April, 2020 - Betsy 1st, Debbie 2nd
- 3) Approval of Minutes from Feb. 2020 – Arvind 1st, Volker 2nd
- 4) Proposed Bell Schedule for 2020-21 School Year

Background – The HB Curriculum Committee was formed 3 years ago. Since then, they have been discussing the current bell schedule and have proposed changes. They determined that studies are showing students do better with a later start; they wanted flexibility for our school to be able to collaborate and be on par with what other Richmond schools are doing; they wanted to make changes that would complement the current BC curriculum; and they surveyed students and the staff collegial council, who all agreed that the proposed change in bell schedule would be a good idea.

Proposed Bell Schedule

On regular school days....

8:30 school starts (this is a later start time)
Lunch is 40 minutes (reduced from 45 minutes)
2:49 school ends (5 minutes later)

- 5) Reports
 - (a) Treasurer's Report-
Balance as of Mar. 31, 2020
General Account \$589
Gaming Account \$14,164
 - (b) Principal's Report

It is clear that the COVID-19 has had a significant impact on our school community.

Two months ago, we cancelled a spring break trip for students that was going to Italy/Greece. In early March, just prior to spring break, the global impact of COVID-19 became apparent with WHO declaring a pandemic.

Many Boyd families were impacted in terms of vacation plans over spring break.

However, what has really become apparent is the significant effect of this pandemic on our society and the major challenges facing our families:

- health of loved ones
- job loss...financial concerns
- stress, anxiety
- in schools, having to move to a totally different way of teaching and learning, reinventing education as we know it.

Focus after spring break was giving teachers the time needed to move things online – aware that most are using one of the following 3 learning platforms: Scholantis, Moodle, and myBlueprint.

We are really looking to support students and families that are struggling. Our Boyd staff does a great job under normal circumstances of identifying those who need support – given the realities of the pandemic, there are many more families that are struggling. It is important for us to consider which families need help in terms of access to:

- reliable internet
- tech devices
- support with learning

Boyd recognizes the impact of this on Grade 12 students, for whom this tends to be the best time of year. In addition, we will focus on how to best transition our new Grade 7 students to Boyd in the fall. In the meantime, it is important that parents, teachers, and staff work together to ensure that students are engaged in their continuity of learning plans.

- 6) The Hugh Boyd PAC has voted to amend two sections of the Constitution and By-Laws

Section III- Meetings of Members, Item #1

A quorum for general meetings will be five* voting members (the minimum number of voting members that can reasonably be expected to attend).

Section IV, Executive, Term of Office, Item #8

An individual may hold a PAC executive office for as long as he/she is elected into a position by a quorum at each yearly AGM.

Several other items were suggested to amend, but these have been postponed until next year.

- 7) The BC Ministry of Education has recommended that students be assigned no more than 15 hours per week of work during the Covid-19 crisis. If parents have any concerns about work their child is receiving, Mr. Johal suggests contacting their teacher directly. In addition, he has shared that the school welcomes and relies on feedback from parents.
- 8) The Hugh Boyd PAC is currently looking for individuals to serve on the PAC executive committee for the 2020-21 school year. Please contact Jill Topp at JillTopp@telus.net if you are interested in volunteering. We will be holding elections at our May 21st meeting and invite all parents to attend our Zoom meeting to vote for our new board.
- 9) Next meeting: May 21, 2020
- 10) Adjournment: 9:00pm

Prepared by Jill Topp

Our email address is hughboydpac@gmail.com