

**MHS PAC MEETING MINUTES**

**Sept. 8, 2010**

**In Attendance:**

MHS; Deborah Maguire (principal, YK1: Blake Lyons (Board Trustee for MHS), Parents/family members: Heather Nakehk'o, Denise Drouin, Lindsey Dwojak, Wendy Carlos, Susan Sibbeston

**Meeting start: 12:05pm**

**Welcome! by MHS PAC Chair**

**1.) PAC**

**Review of PAC role and responsibilities.** Brief review and discussion on a PAC role in general and how the MHS PAC is more of an awareness/advisory committee than a fund-raising committee. Having said that, the MHS will continue to help fund-raise for MHS. But it is not the sole purpose of the MHS PAC. Comments welcome from other MHS families on this.

**Strategic Priorities and Key Results of YK1 2009-2012.** Reviewed summary statements.

**PAC Election of Chair and Secretary.** Heather Nakehk'o was elected MHS PAC chair and Susan Sibbeston as Secretary.

**School Supplies.** It was discussed that school supplies brought in by students were hard store in classrooms and some wondered if they were really needed this early in the year. Possible scenarios of dividing the school list into items like pencils, notebooks, shoes could be considered 'required' and items like kleenex, nutigran bars, tri-fold display boards could be requested later in the year by the teacher as needed. Leaving this up to each teacher and letting parents know could improve space and cost savings on both MHS and parents. Just discussion at this point. Any additional input from other families and teachers would be very welcome.

**Nutrition and food.** Served at school for students who don't have enough to eat or for those who have forgotten lunch is available. There are a few options and YK1 did have a designated staff member to coordinate nutrition programming. Not sure where it is at or what groups are bringing food to MHS for students. Food First? YK1? MHS? PAC would like to know what programs are being offered so that they are aware. Will get more info for Nov PAC meeting.

**Student Handbook.** A draft copy has been circulating since about May 2010. Deborah Maguire has edited it and is recirculating. Discussion on format and the discipline/behaviour section. More tweaking is required but the basic framework is done. Heather will send out draft to all PAC members for further comment.

**First YK1 PAC Chair meeting.** Sept 16 @ noon YK1 Board room.

**MHS Updates.** Deborah Maguire.

1. Friday, Sept. 10 – Colour Group Activity and Assembly
2. Friday, Sept. 17 – School Improvement Afternoon (no school for students in the afternoon)
3. Wednesday, Sept. 22 – Cross-Country Running Race at St. Joe's
4. Thursday, Sept. 23 – Welcome Back Dance at 7:00 pm
5. Tuesday, Sept. 28 – Open House at 7:00 pm
6. Wednesday, Sept. 29 – School Photos
7. Wednesday, Sept. 29 – Tribe of One assembly and workshops
8. Wednesday, Sept 29 – First day of Exploratories for Grades 7/8
9. Friday, Oct. 1 – NWT Cross Country Running Championships
10. Monday, Oct. 4 – First Day for Exploratories for Grades 5/6

### 3.) YK1 Board Updates.

**ALC programming for YK1.** The Aboriginal Education Committee (AEC) is looking for parent input or to be involved on the committee. Contact Mattie MacNeil at YK1 766-5054 or see the YK1 calendar for more information and monthly meeting schedules.

Discussion on language results in Aboriginal Language Curriculum (ALC) students brought up by Blake. He forwarded possible lower than expected numbers on fluency in aboriginal language. Discussed immersion programs and curriculum choices and directions. More statistics and AEC reporting needs to occur if some feel in isn't successful. And successful from a cultural view or a linguistic view?

Some parents feel the cultural component is more important then the language component. There may be a challenge for some students and their families when Tlichó (Weledeh Dialect) is taught and some students may have Slavey, Chipewyan, Gwich'in, Inuktitut, exposure at home. Yellowknife has many other languages now as well. As a result, some parents (both aboriginal and non-aboriginal) notice this and choose to put children in French instead.

Some parents feel core French programming is not producing fluency in French either. But there are core French and French Immersion choices in all Yellowknife schools (perhaps except Kaw Tay Whee and K'alemi schools?).

**Was further noted that Shirley Desjarlais does an exceptional job at teaching the ALC program at MHS and creates a safe inclusive environment for students to share and learn Aboriginal culture and language.**

More discussion and communication to the AEC is needed. PAC encourages ALL parents to comment or call MHS PAC, MHS or YK1 if there are comments or concerns on Core French and ALC programming for ALL MHS students.

**Next YK1 Board Meeting Tues. Sept 14 @ 7:00pm.** Check out [http://www.yk1.nt.ca/district/board\\_agenda\\_min.html](http://www.yk1.nt.ca/district/board_agenda_min.html) for agenda.

4.) Adjournment 1:00pm

5.) **Next MHS PAC meeting Oct. 13, 2010 @ 12pm.** MHS board room, 2nd floor. Open to all families, teachers and administration. Thank you to all who attended!