

**Magee PAC Minutes**  
**General Meeting Dec.3.2024**

Attendance: Mary Ma, Janice Bakas, Chen Yang, Angie Zhang , Marzie Panagher, Vivian Miao, Shannon Ezekiel, Tiffany Lee, Helen Yu, Joanne Carman, Christina Baker, Joanna Zhang, + over 40 parents

Absent: Sandra Cheng, Karena Kwan, Hengda Liu, Linda Xiang

1. Land Acknowledgement
  
2. Motion to approve Agenda: 1<sup>st</sup> by Helen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janice  
Motion to approve Minutes: 1<sup>st</sup> by Janice, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary
  
3. Principal's update – Raza Mirani
  - Semester turnaround is 2 days; activities cancelled this year but with the potential to continue in the future
  - Financial limitation & timing are the reasons for the cancellation
  - Students are not expected to be at school on those days
  - Administrators are focussing on next school year already, looking at course offerings for Jan/Feb.2025
  - Courses are first presented to department heads, then a staff committee, then are approved by the Principal and Vice-Principal
  - If there's lack of interest, even courses in the course catalogue are not guaranteed to run
  - If a student inputs a course request, all the necessary information must be given to the school district by spring break for approval, then staffing is needed to run the course. Enrollment will determine whether or not a class will run.
  - School schedule is built at the end of May and jobs are posted for teachers of these new classes
  - Gr.9 counsellor Ms. McNeil has returned from maternity leave
  - Vice Principal Brenda Dowle will move to Killarney in January
  - New VP, Travis Bell from the Abbotsford school district, will join Magee in January
  - An anonymous donor from the 2006 Magee grad class has started a foundation and made a generous donation of \$20,000 to the LALS, life skills, etc. programs. He was very thankful to Magee and the program staff who welcomed him as an international student when he was in Gr.10.
  
4. Direct drive raised \$18,310 this year which is a reasonable amount, but not enough to fulfill all the needs at the school. For example, funding is needed to replace the full classroom set of laptops decommissioned by VSB at the beginning of the school year. Purchases from VSB are about \$1,100/laptop x 30, we need \$33,000 for just these laptops.

Suggestion to have in-person donation options for Chinese parents who find the multi-step donation process using School Cash Online too difficult. Perhaps a better way for Chinese parents to donate is for them to see physical examples of items sold for fundraising, for example: hoodies/t-shirts, luxury chocolates, other home goods. PAC will consider improving the enticements for fundraising.

5. Every May, teachers put in requests for items needed in classroom, for supporting field trips or necessary materials. As the PAC Executive along with the administration, we direct available funds to where they are needed most. Funds are directed to what affects the student body and priority is to handle urgent matters.

Motion to move \$5,500 of Gaming Grant funds (approved at the last PAC AGM in June 2024) to the Direct Drive account to build up a proper reserve to handle future school needs. 1<sup>st</sup> by Christina; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marzie.

6. Counsellor - Danniell Lin

- Grad & post-secondary talks are interesting for all grades to dispel myths and rumours about post-secondary admission, etc.
- Magee Website provides guidance & support
- Gr.12 students have a MS Teams group; each individual grade has access to their grade groups.
- Spring course selection will be happening for Gr.8 to Gr.11 students.
- UBC receives thousands of applications during early Dec.1 & regular Jan.15 deadlines.
- Most required graduation courses are only required up to Gr.11.
- Majority of Magee students take Gr.12 and advanced courses but these are beyond the BC graduation requirements.
- Education Planner BC is where students can explore different BC University, colleges & institutions.

Questions:

- 1) ***What other events and information are available for students aside from the university fair events that already take place?*** On the Magee website, Teams, and over the school PA system. Much of the information can be found online. Most of the people coming to the schools for presentations are not the recruiters. It's helpful to attend fairs to obtain information in-person about the options. NACAC (North American career fair) will be at Vancouver Convention Centre for families. April 30th US post-secondary fair at Magee; will invite alumni to speak about experiences applying to US schools.
- 2) ***Can kids have the opportunity to experience real-life job environments, to be exposed to the advantages & disadvantages in a career?*** DL is attending job fair with the career ed class at the convention centre. Different speakers come speak to students in specific

classes; exploration of a career is very specific and electives at the school give students the opportunity to try different subject areas to see if it's an interest for them

- 3) ***If online courses are not finished by end of school year do they still get the credits?*** If a student needs graduation requirements and continues to work on online courses when they started as a Gr.12 student, once the course is completed it will appear on the transcript and go onto MyEd BC. Required courses MUST be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> in order to graduate (e.g. online English 12 & other core courses need to be completed by June 30).
- 4) ***Student profiles are part of university applications, what does it include?*** UBC's version of a personal essay, vagueness on how it is evaluated but it's a requirement. Sharing about the student, don't list accomplishments but instead SHARE about how experiences have prepared them for post-secondary education, to show resilience, talk about real experiences. Every school has a different way to apply; not all require a personal essay.
- 5) ***When are university application deadlines?*** University applications open in October. Early admission deadline is Nov-Dec. Regular admission deadline is Jan-Feb. Admission decisions are made Mar-June. There's a rolling admission process with all schools.
- 6) ***AP courses, how are they weighed or considered by universities?*** AP courses are not required as a prerequisite by any university. It's an opportunity for a student to explore a course at a more advanced level but it doesn't give a student an advantage for university application. AP is not an expectation; we have AP Calculus x 2 blocks and AP Psychology at Magee. 225 Gr.12 students this year, with only about 10 students are applying for US schools.
- 7) ***What are the statistics on Magee grads being accepted in UBC, etc.?*** Magee doesn't collate info. but some students may choose to share acceptance information. For UBC, there's a significant number of students who cannot sustain the marks necessary to stay in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- 8) ***What support is given to students to deal with their mental health stress due to post-secondary applications?*** The most informed student has the least stress, so Magee tries to provide info. to help with student stress.

If there are specific questions for each grade group, the course planning book and information will be shared with the students. Reach out to grade counsellor to speak about the strengths and interests of the individual.

7. A Gr. 12 grad committee was formed, please join the group. Grad ceremony is at Chan Centre on June 25 & Grad dinner is on June 19 at Westin Bayshore.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> by Christina, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Helen