

MCI Parent Advisory Council Minutes

February 28, 2022

- Members in Attendance: Leighann Quiring, Kerry Hannah, Betsy Unrau, Nancy Nelson, Elaine Kalberg, Mike Toews, Mark Borgfjord (Teacher Rep) Kyle McKinstry (Principal)
- Call to Order by President, Leighann Quiring
- Motion to accept the minutes from the December 6, 2021 Meeting as posted on the MCI website - Quiring/Kalberg
- Treasurers Report: Balance \$179.04 - Motion to accept treasurer's report - Unrau/Hannah
- MCI – Guidance Counsellor Jennifer Friesen - See Attached
- Principal’s Report (Kyle McKinstry) - See Attached
- Student Council Report (Derek Thiessen – President Student Council) - No report and did not send regrets.
- New Business - No new business
- Next Meeting Date: April 25th, 2022

Note: additional meetings may be added if required/ No meeting to be any longer than one hour unless agreed upon at the time.

I just wanted to introduce a new part of my role at MCI this year. I am in the classroom a bit, working with Carlee in Resource but the new part of my job is a half-time Guidance counsellor. Guidance counseling at MCI began under the premise that children who feel valued, connected and capable will gain the maximum benefit of their experience here at MCI.

Guidance counselling covers 3 main areas: academic, career and personal/social management. One of my goals is to use the guidance and counselling to focus on prevention and education and to ensure accessibility to all students. Collaboration is key and so this program is working well because of the great team that I get to work with: Kyle (who initially saw the value in adding this support to MCI), Carlee in Student Services, Monique Clement in Social Work, teachers and parents/guardians are all part of this team. I work closely with Carlee and Monique to provide the best support to our students.

This pandemic has been tough on all of us. I have seen the impact on our children and we're looking forward to a return to normalcy. However, life brings struggle to varying degrees for us all. Struggle can, however, bring resilience but we all need support sometimes. My biggest goal is to see our students thriving, not just surviving.

Students have access to me most of the day. I've had students refer themselves to me, refer their friends, teachers have referred students that they are concerned about and parents have contacted me. Sometimes all that any of us need is a voice; to have a forum to express struggle and to gain some skills in managing our stress. We also really need to build our support team: the people in our life that we can go to. Parents/Guardians, family members and friends are the most active team members. The Students Services department at MCI, now with a Guidance Teacher, are just one part of that.

Just to close my introduction, I wanted to end with one of the lessons I've learned as a parent. I was asked recently by a parent, "What should I do?" Well, I've learned as a parent that there is great power in just listening. Sometimes, I feel like I have to give answers and advice, "Just do this or that" but I actually did more when I listened to what my child was trying to say. Imagine that you are a mirror to your child. My child says, I feel ignored. I could tell them all the reasons that's not true or I can reflect back their message. So, you're telling me that you feel ignored? No advice. Listening validates their experience and builds trust. At the very least, it's a great starting point. I find that I do a lot of listening!

Jennifer Friesen

MCI Guidance Counsellor/Teacher/Resource Teacher



MacGregor Collegiate Institute

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Mission:

MacGregor Collegiate will foster an educational community in which all members learn.

Principal's Report - MCI PAC

Change in Public Health Orders

Public Health officials announced that Manitoba is lifting proof of vaccination requirements beginning March 1, 2022. The following changes to public health orders will impact schools in Manitoba:

- Proof of vaccination will no longer be required in public places as of March 1, 2022. For schools, this means that proof of vaccination will no longer be required for visitors to schools and it will no longer be required for adults (age 18+) to participate in a sport or extracurricular activity.
- Proof of vaccination will no longer be required for designated school staff as of March 1, 2022. Designated unvaccinated staff working in the education and child care sectors will no longer be required to undergo mandatory rapid antigen testing after February 28, 2022.

Change in Practice Report Cards

In an effort to improve the way teachers can meet the challenges presented in their roles, particularly during Covid times, we are closely examining our work to determine what is essential to student learning. One of the areas of work that we are adjusting is the process of writing and publishing report card comments.

Our focus during the remainder of this year will be on building the connection between parents/guardians and teachers. Instead of the traditional comments for core subjects (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies), teachers will be sharing encouragement to meet either in person or using video conferencing. During the parent/teacher/student conference the strengths, challenges and next steps for your child will be discussed along with any other questions you may have.

The High School report card is a different format than the reports used for earlier grades. High school teachers will be reaching out to make connections with you via any of a number of mutually agreed upon platforms during term one and term three reporting periods. However the High school report card comments at the end of each semester will only communicate information about credit completion.

The time spent in conversation about your child's progress will include all of the information that would have been previously included on the report card in addition to more detailed information for each subject. The ability to meet in person will be impacted by Covid conditions at the time of the interview dates.

Teachers will continue to share all other information that has previously been included on the report cards.

After this next cycle of report cards and conferences is complete we will be asking for feedback about these changes.

Sincerely

K.Murray

Superintendent

Pine Creek School Division

- **Grad 2022 -**
- **Consider the Consequences of Vaping Presentations Virtual - March 16th - 1 pm (9-10's & 11-12's)**
- **Senior Varsity Girls Basketball Team off to AA MHSAA Provincials March 17-19 in Souris**
- **Horse Play Productions—Spring Production called "Typecast" April 27th & 28th, 2022.**
- **Edsembi Parental Portal - Means for parents to stay connected with their child's school programming.**
- **If you ever have a question about your child's programming – Contact your child's teacher.**

Professionally,

Kyle McKinstry

