



**PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES # 03
November 19, 2020**

Due to the Pandemic Covid-19 the Parent Council meeting was held virtually on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 7:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Habegger, Director of the school, called the PC meeting to order for the month of November with the following **Agenda**:

1. Ongoing Communications from School to Home
2. Questions on Hybrid Learning Modules November/December
3. Learning Programs and Tuition Costs
4. Miscellaneous Items
 - a. Vacation Scheduling and Rationale
 - b. Class of 2020 and 2021
 - c. Projections on Hybrid Learning this School Year
 - d. Fundraising Campaigns
 - e. Entry Disinfecting Process – Shoes Only
5. Meeting adjournment

The following PC members attended the virtual PC meeting: Layla Katime (K4), Michelle Beda (K5), Uchi Cubillos (1st grade), Liliana Garavito (2nd grade), Daniela Fina (3rd grade), Andrea Escruceria (4th grade), Catalina Pelaez (6h grade), Helena de Brigard (7th grade), Maria Cecilia Escallón (9th grade), Alexandra Crump (10th grade), Evelyn Aghion (11th grade), Margarita Rivera (12th grade).

II. Development of the Meeting:

1. Ongoing Communications from School to Home

Dr. Habegger started out the meeting by saying as the school was getting ready for the Hybrid Model an incredible amount of communication went out, this of course will change as we get into our routines. One of the keys issues is organizing how we send our communications from school to home. CCN has been going out on Sundays. PC concern is that people do not read, no matter how short, they do not read. Dr. Habegger said this is always a challenge. We have seen increases in this area. Parents have been opening communications between 73% and 75%. Teachers are over 92%. In certain communications we are looking to do videos. Dr. Habegger said he is doing a video next week related to how we need to have solidarity as a community as we will have what other school has experienced and we will experience too which is positive COVID cases, which will mean contact tracing and isolation. Dr. Habegger said he has been following this throughout the region and international schools and knows that we will have the

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same risk management mitigation that other schools had. A school in Cali had, entering the third week of school contact tests which resulted in isolation. Weeks 3 and 4 are risky because of the contact and exposure. We work very close with GRESSA. The minute we have flu like symptoms or a positive test, we talk to GRESSA about the information we can gather.

Our goal is to have risk mitigation to make immediate decisions and we look at that cluster to isolate it. The goal is also to keep as many classes going forward. To have a positive COVID test should not be taboo, we need to share this openly and help each other out as a community and keep school going. Almost 75% is significant. Try to make communications as tight as possible and not inundate people. One of the biggest challenges has been the timings with communications. Now that we are in hybrid model the number of communications will go down.

Parent Council members asked why teachers children are going to clusters A and B. Dr. Habegger said many teachers do not have someone to take care of their children at home. Dividing the groups in A and B, was the only way to run the school with as many teachers to cover the classes as opposed to having substitutes. This is only for the teachers who are on campus.

Parent Council members said they are going to have a meeting with the Principals because the students are also receiving way too much information. The info should be centralized and simplified. Maybe have bullets points instead of whole sentences, have a section of frequently asked questions to tighten up the parent hub. Have a hub link where parents can ask questions.

Parent Council members said parents were talking about a possible case of COVID in Primary where a teacher aid was waiting for test results and no one really knew what was happening. Dr. Habegger said we must face privacy rights and data protection Issues. There is a whole sensitivity around data protection and all we can do is let parents know to monitor student's health for the whole 14 days.

Parent Council members recommended to have a contact directory when having a problem, contact so and so. Dr. Habegger said two days ago, he approved lines of communication and e mails for contact communication in all areas of the school.

2. Questions on Hybrid Learning Modules November/December

From the Hybrid Model learning 1, we learned we needed field testing microphones. We are getting microphones for all teachers within the next 10 days. Will be taking steps to improve sound. Will move the in-class microphone to the center of the classroom.

We have provided professional learning for teachers on how to structure lessons. We are working with an external consultant for hybrid learning. This will be on going. It is very difficult to sustain a hybrid model over a long period time.

About groupings this is a structural issue on the hybrid models. It is understandable. Our goal is to mix up A and B groups and doing rotations, as best as possible.

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K4, K5, 1st grade and Seniors. We are seeing too many issues in schools related to bringing groupings together, too risky. A school in Barranquilla brought all Seniors together and had to isolate the entire group for 14 days.

In school we have 55 teachers, only 2 teachers have all Seniors. The rest of the teachers have different HS grades. Seniors are not wearing masks. Smaller kids are more aware and keep distance and wear masks. I cannot be irresponsible; I need to have the big kids wear masks. The Senior PC representative will communicate this through the parent chat, so parents are aware and can talk to their children. The goal is to have most of the classes functioning and to have reciprocal responsibilities. Dr. Habegger said he wants to decide to support Seniors but is also responsible for the integrity of all the classes across all building levels. The Parent Council members thanked Dr. Habegger for sharing this issue as they are not conscious of the reality of what is happening in school and will take advantage of this to teach their children.

Parent Council members mentioned there are students who are not taking transportation and are lingering around the exit. They need to leave school immediately, they cannot congregate. Parents need to take this in consideration. Dr. Habegger said when he supervises buses in the mornings and afternoons, there are buses with only 4 students. There is probably more risk factor in coming to school in a car with a driver.

3. Learning Programs and Tuition Costs

About tuition costs, Dr. Habegger said the minute the first day of school starts 92% of the budget is spent. That is because, like all schools, 78% is related to salaries and benefits. Another 14% is related to technology and educational materials and supplies. We cannot reduce budget to reduce tuition costs. In schools the only way to cut costs is to reduce staff. We had an increase in enrollment, so we cannot cut costs. In schools in Bogotá we have one of the lowest costs in transportation and cafeteria. This is the money surplus for most schools.

Parent Council members asked if other schools are having a full schedule? Yes, some schools but only by a grade level and others are virtual. The majority have a combination of on campus and virtual. Many parents would like more synchronous time, but this is not possible to keep overtime. Many schools are moving to asynchronous, but this is not CNG's case.

Parent Council members said many students are taking AP courses and are falling behind the AP schedule. How are they going to recuperate that time? Dr. Habegger said he is in the College Board and last week they had a 3-day meeting and went through the AP, Pre AP, SAT testing and they are very realistic about the fact that the vast majority of the schools are not having the kind of instructional coverage that they would have on a standard model. They know that only three international schools are in session right now. There is no way to recuperate a whole 7 hours of learning. They are aware the testing will be on the curve. This is happening all over the world.

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4. Miscellaneous Items

a. Vacation Scheduling and Rationale

Dr. Habegger shared the school calendar with all the Parent Council members and said we are going to follow the biosecurity protocols that give us the opportunity to be able to have as many classes going as much as possible. If you recall we were going to have a 4-day Thanksgiving Break. If we would have taken the entire week, we knew we would have to take a 14-day quarantine before starting up the hybrid again. Knowing this we are only going to have the Thursday half day.

Teachers will be tested on January 23rd and 25th and, will have students in group A testing the 26th and 27th, to start on February 1st.

The Parent Council members asked if the opt in model for group B increased or decreased? Dr. Habegger said 76 families opted in and 17 opted out due to family travel. Basically, over 150 families opted in over the two modules. Approximately 1250 students are coming to school out of 1700.

Parent Council members suggested to let parents know when they need to be back in country. Dr. Habegger said the school is going to give clear guidance on this. Parents need to know they have a 5- day wait period to have testing done. We are looking at an alternative site for group B testing and will send out this information early next week.

Only those coming on campus need to fill out the Self Check In.

b. Class of 2020-2021

Dr. Habegger said Seniors will have a graduation ceremony. Parent Council members suggested to let parents know the dates, so they can plan accordingly.

c. Projections on Hybrid Learning this School Year

Random testing will be done every 14 days. We are waiting for GRESSA to tell us how to do the random testing. The initial testing is done only to go into the Hybrid Modules. No random testing for the little ones this is too invasive.

Surgical masks were approved as a fourth option.

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d. Fundraising Campaigns

We already have three fundraising campaigns and there is a proposal of a fourth one which is San Andrés and Providencia. Dr. Habegger asked the Parent Council for feedback. It was suggested that money from the Out of Dress Code go for helping this cause. The Parent Council did not agree, the *fundación* has many needs. There are ways to do this not through the community. It was suggested by the Parent to Council to provide a list of parents who are supporting this fundraising who can be reached. There are lots of organizations out of school collecting donations for this purpose. Parents can decide on doing donations on their own.

It seems the amount of money given for the Out of Dress Code through building levels is not consistent. The Parent Council asked Dr. Habegger to look into this.

e. Entry Disinfecting Process – Shoes Only

The Secretaria de Educación requires shoes to be disinfected. The lowest part of the cabins sprays a salt saline solution which goes on the step mat and is used to disinfect shoes. This spray is not harmful. The rest of the upper and middle cabin has been disconnected. The Parent Council suggested on the next CNN Sunday news to please give an explanation about this, because many complaints have been received.

Parent Council members said kids are very happy coming back to school. Dr. Habegger said it is very nice to hear this. We will do everything we can to keep it going.

5. Meeting Adjournment

With no further issues, the PC meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

**Catalina Pelaez
President**

**Michelle Beda
Secretary**