

**PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES # 05
January 28, 2021**

Due to the Pandemic Covid-19 the Parent Council meeting was held virtually on Thursday, January 28, 2021, 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. Learning Program for Second Semester of 2020-21
 - a. Instructional Time and Scenario Planning
 - b. Operational Details
 - i. Opt-in/Opt-out and Communication Timelines.
 - ii. Projected Grouping Structure
 - iii. Testing Before Hybrid Start
 - iv. Considerations for Early Childhood and Seniors
 - c. Academic Calendar
2. Other Programs and Activities
 - c. Improving Overall Student Engagement
 - d. Athletics, Condor, and Clubs/Organizations
 - e. Cost Structures and On/Off Campus Activities Plans
3. Logistics and Other Topics
 - c. Mask Options for Students
 - d. Scheduling of Final Exams

The following PC members attended the virtual PC meeting: Layla Katime (K4), Michelle Beda (K5), Uchi Cubillos (1st grade), Liliana Garavito (2nd grade), Andrea Escruceria (4th grade), Luis Lara (5th grade), Catalina Pelaez (6th grade), Helena de Brigard (7th grade), Maria Fernanda Correa (8th grade), Maria Cecilia Escallón (9th grade), Alexandra Crump (10th grade), Evelyn Aghion (11th grade), Margarita Rivera (12th grade).

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1. Learning Program for Second Semester of 2020-21

a. Instructional Time and Scenario Planning

Dr. Habegger started the Parent Council meeting wishing all a Happy New Year 2021 and said the most crucial issue for the Learning Program is the increase in instructional time. Dr. Habegger said the school administrators and the Board of Directors are ready to bump this out. Starting February 8th, the instructional time both for virtual and hybrid will be increased by one and a half hours from K4 to 12th grade. This means PR and EL will likely go from 7:00 to 1:00 and MS and HS will go from 9:30 to 3:30 depending on the issue of bus transportation turnaround times.

Right now, it is very difficult to predict what the limitations and requirements in Bogota will be. In the weekly meetings with the ACCAS directors, every municipality has its own regulations so there is no standard. Regulations can change from one moment to another as we have seen in the past, so we are doing the scenario planning.

b. Operational Details

Dr. Habegger said over 160 staff personnel were tested this past Tuesday, his was negative so will be able to go on campus to every class to measure potential distancing of students in class if the governmental requirements change at a later time. Once we hear from the *secretaria de educación* and the city's Major and, we know what our requirements are, we will have a plan of action to go.

i. Opt-in/Opt-out and Communication Timelines.

CNG works with GRESSA the biosecurity company who also works with a lot of schools like CNG. GRESSA sends a daily report of cases and trends on the Covid-19. They project schools will be able to open on mid-February or early March. This is at least 2 to 4 weeks before being able to come back to school. Once we get an official notice of when schools can begin, we will begin backward planning. Parents will be communicated on Opt-in/Opt-out, with the dates when the school would start. These dates will also include testing dates for Group A (five days before starting) and Group B the following week (five days before starting).

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ii. Testing Before Hybrid Start

Teachers and students will be tested at the same time, within a five-day window, based on the dates when we know we can come back.

iii. Projected Grouping Structure

Dr. Habegger said because we do not know what the *aforo* will be, we will begin with the same groupings until changes are announced in any new decree.

We are looking into potential optional testing for primary students, instead of doing the PCR test, which is very invasive for them, we are looking at the saliva testing which is less invasive and less actively passing on the virus. But we need to see the validity and reliability of the saliva vs PCR.

iv. Considerations for Early Childhood and Seniors

Dr. Habegger said it is assured this continues to be in the radar screen for considering K4, K5, and Seniors having more time on campus, but at this stage, hands are tied by external regulations.

c. Academic Calendar

At this stage we are looking at the February Break, Dr. Habegger will speak to the Board of Directors. Right now there is no certainty, because we do not know if we are going to be in virtual or hybrid. The February break was put in because of the stretch between January and *Semana Santa*, a twelve-week stretch almost 3 months is very difficult for teachers and students. We are trying to stick to the actual schedule and make as few possible changes in order not to generate more stress.

Dr. Habegger opened-up the PC for questions and comments:

Is it possible for primary students to begin at 8:00 instead of 7:00 and end at 12 instead of 11?

Is it possible to have a synchronized schedule while on virtual, for example from 7 to 1? So, households can have one schedule and once school shifts to hybrid, make changes conditioned to bus route schedule?

Teachers are dismissing students earlier it feels they are getting less teaching time.

Dr. Habegger will meet with the academic team this afternoon to discuss these issues.

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Dr. Habegger said, yesterday the academic team met to go over the survey. Two aspects came across very consistent and that was to increase the schedule and the other, HS said they are overburdened with work. Dr. Habegger said the academic team will try to find a balancing point.

HS parents would like to know if it is possible to have more synchronous working time and less homework and, also the starting time because 11:00 A.M. most students are getting bad habits out of this. Also, could it be possible to have teachers make it mandatory to have cameras on? Dr. Habegger said it is recommended by the recent professional learning consultant, for students to have their cameras on, even if the camera is pointing towards the ceiling, but if the camera is on, teachers can do check-ins every now and then, to know students are there. With the additional hour and a half in the morning, hopefully, this time will be used to do homework synchronously.

At the HS level, the sciences that have labs, some students who are supposed to have lab times are not having any. Dr. Habegger said he will follow up with Ivan Velasco.

4. Other Programs and Activities

c. Improving Overall Student Engagement

Research says schools are not places of spread. Given this, we want to pursue more sports activities for students to come back on campus. We are looking into this not only during the week but also on Saturdays.

d. Athletics, Condor, and Clubs/Organizations

This will include all sports. The only issue will be the restrictions from the *secretaría de educación*.

e. Cost Structures and On/Off Campus Activities Plans

We are looking into cost structures.

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5. Logistics and Other Topics
c. Mask Options for Students

Dr. Habegger the school is looking into mask options, including surgical masks. The PC members said surgical masks are now a requirement. Dr. Habegger will investigate this more deeply.

d. Scheduling of Final Exams

Dr. Habegger said teachers need to make determination if enough content was covered for students to do their best.

Finally, Dr. Habegger said he will prepare a communique with this information to send to parents tomorrow.

The PC meeting was adjourned at 8:15 A.M.

Catalina Pelaez
President

Michelle Beda
Secretary