

**PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES #02
October 22, 2020**

Due to the Pandemic Covid-19 the Parent Council meeting was held virtually on Thursday, October 22, 2020, at 7:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

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

1. Eric's Opening Comments on the Concept of "Hope and Wonder"
2. Key Factors Driving the Postponement of CNG's Hybrid Start
 - a. Testing Processes, Timelines, and Results
 - b. At-Risk Student and Staff Health Issues with Ramifications to Operations
 - c. Established Principles and Criteria for Decision Making
3. Process Underway for Improving the Coordination, Clarity, and Timeliness of School Communications
4. Updated Operational and Logistical Information for Our Hybrid Modules
 - a. A/B Groupings and Transportation
 - b. Revisions to Hybrid Modules
 - c. Biosecurity Measures
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), Luis Lara (5th 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. Eric's Opening Comments on the Concept of "Hope and Wonder"

Dr. Habegger said he has some thoughts to share with the Parent Council members. As opening comments, he made three questions:

Would you send your kids to school if I told you your teacher was COVID positive?

Would it be acceptable if we knew of COVID positive teachers and we did not tell you?

Would it be acceptable if we just did not care if anyone is positive, or not? By mandate we know that if someone is positive, he/she needs to be isolated.

Dr. Habegger said there are multiple factors and criteria which lead to this decision and shared a graph with the Parent Council members. Dr. Habegger said there are certain risk factors, and we are already in moderate risk. We know that coming back to school we have a moderate risk. There are certain risk factors, and CNG is already in moderate risk. There is an inherent risk we need to provide people with information so they can decide.

School positivity rate in the PCR test was 10%, in Bogotá it is 17.5%. Dr. Habegger gave the Parent Council members an example with the following analogy: Dr. Habegger is flying an airplane for the first time, he is blind and cannot see the radar screen. Dr. Habegger asked would you send your kids with me? This refers to the notion of risk management.

We know that after October break, if you travelled, for testing you need to have a window of 5 days. Otherwise, you can test and have false positive and false negative. If we do not do any testing before we begin school, we are going to be flying blind. The school contacted several companies which said results would be back in 48 hours max 72. Staff was tested and we suddenly started seeing results quite a bit over 10%. We have not received total test results yet from teachers. If we were to begin school, we would be flying blind. "Hope and wonder: I hope it works out. I wonder why it did not". Why can't CNG open? Because we do not want to fly blind.

CNG is not a hope and wonder school. Positivity rates are too high. We would have placed at least 50 positives in contact with your kids. Why would the school start by knowing there are positives? Still waiting for teacher results and 1200 students to take the test. CNG is not in a safe situation right now. It would have been easier just to bring everyone back, and not worry about the testing. 27% of our families opted out. 8% have health related issues, approximately 160 students. La Secretaría de Educación has a list with comorbidity it is illegal to have students with commorbidity on campus, even if they want to come back. There are 21% of the teachers with comorbidity, diabetes, hypertension, cancer treatment.

Parent Council members said parents are not understanding anything. Parents do not know what the school is thinking. It would be easier if they knew. Dr. Habegger said the single biggest critical issue is all related to communication. Last Monday parents were ready to come back, but on Tuesday we already started seeing positivity rates in tests. 10% is not a magic number, it is only a marker. It can be 5% the matter is who is impacted.

2. Key Factors Driving the Postponement of CNG's Hybrid Start

- a. Testing Processes, Timelines, and Results
- b. At-Risk Student and Staff Health Issues with Ramifications to Operations
- c. Established Principles and Criteria for Decision Making

Parent Council members asked, how is the school going to control this in November once you do the testing again so that it does not sum up? Dr. Habegger said there are protocols, the school has been developing since March with GRESSA the biosecurity company. We are planning two testing dates: The first before the first module; the second before the module after the holiday break. Both are consistent

and coherent. Risks go up in travel, that is in October Break and in January. Testing provides a snapshot in time, because in that time sequence you know who tested negative, even if they picked it up afterward. We need to start clean and if there is a need start monitoring flu like symptoms, and then do contact tracing and isolation if needed.

Parent Council members suggested maybe doing zoom meetings with parents. Dr. Habegger said this is a great idea and he is going to do it. Parent Council members said this is not going to get better if anything it is going to get worse from how things are happening in other parts of the world. Parents are thinking the school is never going to reopen. Maybe try to open- up by schools, by buildings, and not the entire school together. Parents are all going to be thankful.

Dr. Habegger said things move extremely fast and changed from the beginning of the week on Monday through Thursday. Dr. Habegger said he is 100% committed to getting the modules started before the holiday break. The issue is when and how. With data and transparency and sharing that data so parents can make informed decisions we can move forward. Teachers are ready, administrators are ready, and parents can make choices. If we can start with one building level and that is manageable risk, we will do it. If we follow protocols and follow data, we can manage risks.

There is a wide variety of spectrums which leads to dealing with three mindsets:

Health and Safety: I prefer my kid to stay at home and be healthy and safe

Learning Program: My kid is not learning as well in virtual, he should be in school

Social and emotional: My kid is learning well from home, he is safe, but misses his friends and teachers

In all these three mindsets there are bookends. There are kids that are learning better in the virtual model than they did in school, their parents say this; other parents say virtual learning is not working for them at all; and others say their kids are really impacted and want to be back in school. So please know with talking to parents you can be dealing with any of these three mindsets. There are those who say it was a great decision or those who say it was the worse decision. Therefore, we need to make not emotional decisions, but data driven decisions, based on criteria, and then let people choose.

The first-grade parents are concerned because they do not know if 1st grade teachers and assistants will be able to come to school to teach. Dr. Habegger said he will have this information out to have people make decisions. The opt in/opt out window will be opened again. If parents want to hold the decision as it is, it is fine.

Parent Council members asked when do you expect all teachers to be tested? Dr. Habegger said we are trying to get these as soon as possible. Still missing some 60 tests. Hopefully, we will have them by tomorrow and we will be able to put these together to communicate to parents. The two weeks of virtual learning will be shifted, so we can do the testing.

Will the testing of students interfere with their decision to come back to school? Dr. Habegger said no. It is expected that a certain percentage will test positive. Students will have to remain out of school during a 14-day period.

3. Process Underway for Improving the Coordination, Clarity, and Timeliness of School Communications

The Parent Council members said that even before the pandemic we had a lot of issues with communication, with the Principals, teachers, and chats. Dr. Habegger has met with the academic leadership team to discuss this issue. There is no easy solution. We can under communicate or over communicate. It is the differences between building levels and the coffee weekly meetings that are creating all kinds of issues. Parents have kids in multiple grade levels and get different messages, it is very confusing. The status quo is not working. Dr. Habegger said maybe it would be better to have these meetings after the Parent Council meeting, so that people have the official information. Not having coffee conversations in a tight timeline with one day to the next as well as fewer is a better idea. Parent Council members agreed to this idea. Use opportunities to communicate in a clear and coherent manner. It seems Principals do not want to give out information before it is approved by Dr. Habegger. If we had communicated better, we could have gone through a 10-stress level to at least a 5.

Regarding the issue that happened on Friday, Dr. Habegger has been talking with the Principals about coherence and coordination from K4 through 12th grade. The expectation as building level team administrators is to have the filter to understand that it is a K4 through 12th grade decision.

Parent Council members asked Dr. Habegger to please decide on what masks the students are going to wear so that parents can go out and buy them before the beginning of the 1st hybrid module.

Are all students going to have the PCR test? What about the saliva tests for the smaller students? Dr. Habegger said the saliva tests are not officially available in Colombia. The false/positive negatives are extremely high. So, the decision was made on the PCR test for everyone. Two tests will be done, one now before the 1st hybrid module and the other in January. The school will cover the costs. Random testing will continue to be done with teachers, staff, and students, throughout out the rest of the school year.

4. Updated Operational and Logistical Information for Our Hybrid Modules

- d. A/B Groupings and Transportation**
- e. Revisions to Hybrid Modules**
- f. Biosecurity Measures**

Parent Council members said an evaluation of the distance learning model needs to be made. Many classes work on videos and excessive homework. Parents feel you should look into it and make some changes. Dr. Habegger said the academic team is already looking at hybrid model 3.0 with research and will be provided to the teachers to make improvements. HS Students are having too much homework and project-based work, they need more instructional time. Dr. Habegger asked the Parent Council members for two favors: First. Provide honest forward feedback from parents about the virtual model 2.0. Second. Give specific examples about where communication is not going well.

First grade parents feel their kids are not receiving enough instructional time. Dr. Habegger said yes, we need to provide value added education, that is why we need feedback from parents about the virtual model 2.0 to improve our future modules.

K4 parents think they should have a priority for coming back to school. Parents ask for social emotional support. They think students are not learning what they should be learning when they are at school. Dr. Habegger said remember there are three different mindsets where we set up priorities. We know that the K4 and K5 grades are more challenging because of their age level and we will see how we can address this better. Fourth grade parents feel very happy with the virtual learning.

Dr. Habegger said the Senior year is a very important grade for CNG not only because it is the last year, but because they have college applications, lots of testing and all those aspects that make it a special year, the Board of Directors is aware of this. It was also mentioned that due to the circumstances the Senior graduation ceremony (Class of 2020) is still pending. Dr. Habegger said has been looking into this and will have news on this soon. K4, K5 and 12th grade are challenging grades and will be considered for the planning and preparations

Parent Council members asked Dr. Habegger about the building level meetings the parent council representatives have with each one of the Principals. Should the meetings with Principals be before the Parent Council meets with Dr. Habegger? Depending on the feedback the Principals need, which should come first? Maybe meet with the Principals first, so they can give Dr. Habegger feedback and then the Parent Council would meet with Dr. Habegger. Then, have one or two meetings with parents during the month. Dr. Habegger said both meetings have their merits. It is important that the Parent Council like to talk to the Principals first regarding some of the issues that are swirling around the parent community, so Principals can let Dr. Habegger know about those. Have the Parent Council meetings for the generalities and talk to the Principals for the specifics and then have the meeting with parents. This would be the most powerful way to ensure coordination. The Parent Council agreed to this. Dr. Habegger said he would let the Principals know.

The A/B groupings and Transportation. The opt in window will be reopened. If parents want to leave their decision as it is, it is okay. But if parents want to change it there will be a link to opt in or out. A/B groupings have been made whether parents have opted in or out. Transportation will be included in the form for parents to decide whether their kids are going to take transportation or not.

Revisions to Hybrid Models. The two virtuals will be moved up for the next two weeks to do the testing and then A/B- A/B.

Biosecurity. Masks are a big issue. Today a meeting with GRESSA will be held and issues related to masks will be discussed. Communication will also be sent out to parents with all this information.

Athletics and co-curricular activities will not be offered for the 1st hybrid module. The focus will be put on all classroom related issues.

5. Meeting Adjournment

With no further issues, the PC meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Catalina Pelaez
President

Michelle Beda
Secretary