

**PARENT COUNCIL  
MINUTES # 07  
March 18, 2021**

Due to the Pandemic Covid-19 the Parent Council meeting was held virtually on Thursday, March 18, 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 February with the following **Agenda**:

1. Virtual Class Structure with A&B Groups on Campus
2. Student Attendance for the Pilot Project and Issue of Absences
3. Update on Teachers and Support Staff Remaining Off Campus Due to Medical Issues
4. Progress on Construction Projects and Master Facilities Plan
5. Daily Schedule (PS/ES and MS/HS) and Last School Day to End the Academic Year
6. PCR Saliva Testing
7. Cafeteria Services
8. Schedule for Condor Activities
9. Tuition
10. Others

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 (4<sup>th</sup> grade), Luis Lara (5<sup>th</sup> grade) (Mr. Lara for personal reasons joined the meeting at 8:05 a.m.), Catalina Pelaez (6th grade), Helena de Brigard (7th grade), Maria Cecilia Escallón (9th grade), Alexandra Crump (10th grade), Evelyn Aghion (11th grade), Margarita Rivera (12th grade).

**1. Virtual Class Structure with A&B Groups on Campus**

Dr. Habegger began the meeting by highlighting the learned experience from other international schools in Asia and Europe, especially those schools that have remained in hybrid over a longer period. Based on their experiences, CNG has developed a hybrid model that takes instructional sustainability of teachers into account. As our school initiates a 9-day pilot project for A and B groups to attend school at the same time, for those students who opted out, they will receive a tailored virtual class at home.

## **2. Student Attendance for the Pilot Project and Issue of Absences**

Dr. Habegger said the idea of the pilot project for 9 days is to have as many students and staff in school as possible to test our model and instructional strategies. We will then do a survey to parents and make any necessary adjustments in advance of another set of modules.

The PC members asked what happens when one of the family members who opted in goes sick and the siblings who are all in different grades, need to stay at home, what happens to their learning? Dr. Habegger said the school has the responsibility to provide virtual education for all those who are unable to come to school and opted in, and the building leaders will be looking at options for providing those educational services. With that stated, it would be extremely challenging for all teachers if every day there was a different group of students. If this is the case, the virtual classroom is going to exceed having classes in school. The delivery of the curriculum becomes very challenging, and the school would not have the ability to serve everyone. People will have to commit to opting in once future modules take place.

## **3. Update on Teachers and Support Staff Remaining Off Campus Due to Medical Issues**

Coming back from the January holidays, CNG has 19 more teachers back on campus. There are occupational medical doctors working with our staff to ensure their safe return, and CNG cannot have these teachers back in the classroom unless they have medical clearance. Additionally, teachers who recently had babies and may have at-risk conditions would also need medical clearance. If spouses have leukemia or are receiving cancer treatments, these teachers cannot be on campus as an ethical consideration.

The PC members said we need to be clear on the message that if someone is sick at home, they need to be responsible and stay at home. If they are sick and opted in, they should have the option of being virtual temporarily. This type of situation would be different than someone going on early vacation and marked absent, thus not having the school required to accommodate their needs. Dr. Habegger said he will look into this closely and it would be discussed by the admin team to address these issues.

The PC members said it is the parents' responsibility to make these decisions and not have the school adjust for parents. Parents need to know these are the rules and they need to abide by them. It is very difficult for the Parent Council to solve these situations with parents.

## **4. Progress on Construction Projects and Master Facilities Plan**

All the design and planning work has been done for the cafeteria. The cafeteria plan is ready to go. We are just waiting for the *Plan de Regularización y Manejo*. We have all the funds ready to make this happen. The Board of Directors made the decision several

months ago that as soon as we have all the licenses, we will continue to move forward for summer and winter construction.

## **5. Daily Schedule (PS/ES and MS/HS) and Last School Day to End the Academic Year**

Dr. Habegger said the PS/ES and MS/HS daily schedules will remain the same to maintain as much consistency as possible. Timetables and transportation will remain the same to provide stability for parents, teachers, and students as well as to ensure sufficient turnaround times to accommodate special cleaning procedures between routes. Related to the question of whether CNG would be extending the school year, Dr. Habegger mentioned that our school has the 180 school days required for accreditation.

The PC members asked if the learning program remains on the right track with appropriate content coverage. Dr. Habegger confirmed that a year and a half ago, our teachers adopted the Power Standards to focus on the critical aspects in their subject areas. We began doing this before COVID and now it coincided with the impact on learning time. The MAP testing results were outstanding for the Fall testing period. The majority of grade levels tested have increased their percentile scores in math, reading, and language usage.

## **6. PCR Saliva Testing**

With the *Clinica Santa Fe*, we are going to offer students K4-12 grade saliva or nasal testing. Students can decide even at the testing site, which test to take. Dr. Habegger will check with Santa Fe if parents who cannot make it on campus can have the saliva test taken at Santa Fe.

## **7. Cafeteria Services**

Regarding cafeteria services, Dr. Habegger suggested having 2 or 3 people represent the PC and provide feedback to Monique Duchamp, Fernando Perez, and Guillermo Suaza, to have a follow up zoom meeting over the grab and go. They will be happy to do adjustments. The PC asked if there are plans to re-open the cafeteria, Dr. Habegger confirmed that plans are underway to provide service in the Diner with the Seniors being first to pilot it. The goal would be to extend occupancy up to 120 people with each lunch rotation in conjunction with biosecurity measures.

## **8. Schedule for Condor Activities**

GRESSA came to school this week to check the biosecurity protocols. Andrés Silva and Solita Baron presented some ideas to pilot sports and Condor activities in the near future. The idea is not to have any activities that cross into mixing cohorts. Once back from *Semana Santa*, we can project to open several activities as part of the initial pilot project.

## 9. Tuition

Regarding school fees, the PC members said that some parents are asking why the school fees for next year are higher than the consumer price index? Dr. Habegger said 82% of the budget goes to personnel expenses and another 13% goes to technology. This is already 95% of our budget, which is already fixed to provide the full range of programs for students and families. Additionally, we have significant associated costs for COVID. We have already spent 2.1 *mil millones* just to have operations back school for joint A and B groups. We are the first school in Bogota back in classes with all students. To keep costs down, CNG tightened the belt in cost centers to reduce expenses without impacting the learning program. Also, we had 3 cost centers last year where no services were offered: cafeteria, transportation, and Condor activities, thus resulting in revenue losses.

Regarding the increase in K4 slightly above the other grade levels, Dr. Habegger said that this increase should have been done for all grades, but according to the Resolution of the *secretaria de educación*, it only allows an increase in K4. The school hired more cleaning staff, more staff to supervise the capacity in classrooms, and purchased cleaning and disinfection material and biodegradable materials for the use of the cafeteria service. The school has invested more than 600 million in these tests to ensure student and staff health and safety.

## 10. Others

The PC members asked when the email is going out for those who have not opted in for Model 7. Dr. Habegger said they were already looking at opting-in communications for Model 7, but CNG would not make the final determination on testing probably until Monday, April 5th. It is difficult to plan without seeing the exact data on positivity rates and the potential impact of coronavirus variants. The PC members said parents should return to Bogotá on Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> to be ready for testing and preparations for hybrid learning if deemed appropriate at that time.

Regarding transportation to areas such as La Calera and La Pradera, Dr. Habegger said CNG can put together a cost structure, taking into consideration a bus driver, *monitora*, gas and maintenance costs. Parents can reach out to Monique Duchamp if interested in seeing a cost structure for other routes depending on the number of participating families.

The PC meeting was adjourned at 8:20 A.M.

Catalina Pelaez

President

Michelle Beda

Secretary