

**Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School
School Advisory Council Meeting Agenda
Virtual Meeting**

December 14, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

In Attendance:

Sarah O'Toole, Joan Dewar, Allan Armsworthy, Jack MacDonald, Suzanne Delaney, Trevor MacIsaac, Shannon Boyle, Shelley MacKenzie, Abby Jessome, Hilus Keay, Kim Bain-Long, Lorraine Reddick and MaryAnn Burke.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Mr. Armsworthy.

The agenda was approved

2. Mr. MacDonald acknowledged the Territory of the Mi'kmaw People

- Council Chair invited each of the attendees to introduce themselves.

3. Two sets of minutes were reviewed and approved this evening:

December 2020 minutes- Approved by Shannon Boyle and seconded by Hilus Keay

November 16th, 2021 minutes- Approved by Shannon Boyle and seconded by Shelley MacKenzie

4. Bylaws and Letter of Agreement:

- These were sent to all members of the Council.

- There are a few minor edits, but they have been reviewed by Senior Administration at SRCE and ready to be finalized.

-The School Advisory Council handbook was also attached to Mr. MacDonald's e mail to members. Mr. MacDonald clarified that the role of the members is to advise the Principal around policy, school procedures and communication. Invitation to Mrs. Fougere will follow.

5. Mr. MacDonald updated the Council on Air Filtration Units. The focus is on increased frequency of filter replacements. Filters are replaced every 3 months. The grade of filters is unknown, but they are high quality filters.

Council is requesting a response from SRCE with regards to the type of filter and an update in air quality numbers since the new filters were installed. Mr. MacDonald will invite Chris Grover to the next meeting.

Council members in agreement that inviting Wanda Fougere to the next SAC meeting would be beneficial to :

1. Review role of the members
2. Update on possible PD opportunities for Council members
3. New information at Department regarding School Advisory Councils

6. New Business: Current Covid 19 outbreak:

-Mr. MacDonald updated members on outbreak, student absenteeism, staff absenteeism, learning and procedures followed when an exposure is brought forward by Public Health.

-Members are very concerned for health and safety of students and staff at Dr, JHG. They are also concerned with the loss of time to learn. It is difficult to teach to empty classrooms and difficult for students to learn online from home without direction from the teacher.

-The data so far includes:

Friday, December 10- 70% of students absent, 14 unfilled staff positions

Monday, December 13th – 85% of students absent, 17 unfilled staff positions

Tuesday, December 14th- 90% of students absent, 18 unfilled staff positions

Regional Staff have been supporting by filling in for teachers. Support teachers have been reassigned to classrooms. We are still in person learning with teachers posting assignments online.

-Question: Has there been discussion to implement the blended model for learning? This would allow our most vulnerable students to access school if they want or need. It would also allow students to learn online from home with lessons taught online by course teachers.

Response: A good idea but this has not been discussed.

Abby J- Student reports family concerns around fear of contracting Covid-19. Student will not be able to attend school. She is following postings online but is worried about falling behind and missing out on lessons taught. As a student in Grade 12, this is stressful.

H. Keay- Share that there is a disconnect without actual lessons from teachers. He is missing school due to risk of exposure. This is stressful to both students and their parents.

S. Boyle- The work has been completed to prep for online learning. The money was spent to equip each student with a chromebook. This is an ideal situation to implement the online model.

L. Reddick- We are seeing exposures in elementary schools and pre -primary. It is time to act and to decide NOW.

-After discussing concerns around health and safety, the council members voted in favour of making a written recommendation that **“all classes at Dr. John Hugh Gillis move to online learning effective immediately.”**

-This was approved by Hilus Keay and seconded by Kim Bain-Long

Mr. MacDonald will prepare a Letter of Recommendation and send it off.

-Jack Principal to deliver message to proper channels: Statement of movement to online learning effective immediately

- Message to be delivered to Paul Landry and the SRCE, MLA, minister of health and education, and Dr. Strang.

7. Student Council Report:

HK:

-Racial incidents at the school have been concerning student body. Met with Ms. Reddick to take correct approach with student body.

- There is a mural being painted in hallway to represent inclusive learning environment.

-Initiative again on filling holes in the student parking lot.

AJ:

Question for committee: is there anything else student council should elaborate on?

Jack: Updates and successes of student council.

ABBY: Grade 9 orientation - some concerns raised over the use of paint. Will be brought forward for turn over to next year's council.

Royal Value cards with Mike Stewart fund raiser. Cards are being sold and utilized now. It has been a successful fundraiser.

Acknowledgements:

Mrs. Reddick acknowledged and thanked administration for the work and dedication to improving the culture of the school and making it a more inclusive, positive learning space.

A.Jessome acknowledged that the Anti racism workshops have been excellent for students and staff. Hearing first hand stories from community members goes a long way in helping people understand the trauma and hurt.

8. Next Meeting Items

- Full Spectrum Lighting- Are the new bulbs full spectrum lighting?

-Invitation to Mrs. Fougere and Mr. Grover

Next meeting:

Tentative date of Tuesday, January 25, 2022 @6pm.

7:15pm - Allan: Motion to Adjourn - Motion granted by Lorraine.