

School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes **January 25th, 2022**

In attendance: Joan Dewar, MaryAnn Burke, Lorraine Reddick, Allen Armsworthy, Sarah O'Toole, Shannon Boyle, Wanda Fougere, Kim Bain, Trevor MacIsaac, Suzanne Delaney and Jack MacDonald

Regrets from: Shelley MacKenzie, Andrea Brophy, Hilus Keay and Abby Jessome

1. Mr. Armsworthy called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

-Mrs. Lorraine Reddick requested permission to make an addition to the agenda regarding a proposal for Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School- The item was added to the agenda.

-Motion to approve the agenda was made by Sarah O'Toole and seconded by Lorraine Reddick.

2. Mr. MacDonald made the Acknowledgement of Mi'kmaw Traditional Territory.

3. Members had some time to review the minutes from last meeting. Minutes were approved by Shannon Boyle and seconded by MaryAnn Burke.

4. Guest Speaker Wanda Fougere- Coordinator of Programs and Policy/SAC presented to the group. The focus was on the Role of the School Advisory Council- advising administration, SRCE and Dept of Ed.

- Dr. JHG Agreement has been completed- needs signature from Mr. Sherman England and Mr. Paul Landry. Dr. JHG bylaws still to be completed.

-The focus of the SAC is to focus on student Achievement and Social- Emotional Wellbeing of students.

-Council members would normally participate in Provincial and Regional Professional Development- This has not been permitted since Covid, but there is hope to plan for a session in the Spring.

-Finances- The council members are also involved in advising school administration how to spend the annual money offered to schools. The money is \$5000 + \$1 per student. The SAC decides how this money will be spent. This should be connected to the Student Success Plan.

- 20% of the money can be used to support SAC operational costs as well.

-Council members are offered the opportunity to provide feedback/input on new or reviewed policies.

-The Principal of the school is responsible for developing and sharing an Annual Report with the SAC members. This includes names of members on Council, accomplishments and milestones

attained. The report gets signed by the Chair of the SAC and it then gets sent off to Director of Programs for the SRCE.

-Agenda and meeting minutes will be posted on the school website. The Principal is the lead of the SAC. The Regional Center for Education is responsible for orientation of new members and organizing Professional Development Opportunities.

Follow-up from presentation:

- A member of the public can only participate if they are on the agenda. A person must request permission to be on the agenda. If request is not made, the Chair can decide to either add to the agenda or to differ to another SAC meeting.

5. Old Business:

-Mr. MacDonald invited Chris Grover and Ian Fraser (Operations) to attend this week. They were unable but committed to attending in February.

- Update: All secondary air filters will be enhanced to MERV13's. 16 is the highest quality MERV filter out there.

Items for next meeting:

- Why has the SRCE decided to choose the MERV over the HEPA?
- Full Spectrum Lighting
- Update on upgrades to the school
- Moisture infiltration into the school

6- New Business

A -As discussed at the SAC meeting, a formal letter recommending that Dr. JHG move to online learning was prepared and presented to SRCE prior to Christmas.

-Two days were added to the start and to the end of Christmas break.

-Online learning in January was a success- student engagement was positive

-There was a lot of uncertainty with in- person learning, but attendance has been good so far.

We are aware of some cases of Covid. We have gone back to our initial strategies:

- Grade level entrances
- Staggered dismissals
- Masks, clean in, clean out
- Students expected to report directly to class area upon arrival at 8:10AM.

B -Rapid Test Kits have been received. They are for symptomatic students and staff.

-More kits arrived and will be sent home to families.

-We will replenish as needed.

C. Exams- Teachers are free to modify the format of their exam and/ or summative evaluation of choice.

Discussion: There is a concern of inequality among courses and extra curricular activities. For example, there have been many strategies put in place in Music classes and band rehearsals to ensure that all covid protocols are being met. However, wind instruments and singing are still not permitted at this point. Other courses (PE) and extra curricular sports have been given the ok to participate.

How do we address this concern? Parents, students, teachers want the programs reinstated. The band program is an integral part of student life at the High School. It is key to the health and wellness of students who take part.

A parent letter has already been sent to the SRCE and Dept of Ed.

What can be done?

Kim Bain made the motion that the Band Program be reinstated.

Sarah O'Toole seconded the motion.

Kim will send Mr. MacDonald a copy of the parent letter already submitted.

Mr. MacDonald will prepare an official letter to SRCE to forward our motion.

Addition to the agenda: Mrs. Lorraine Reddick

Mrs. Reddick introduced her topic by acknowledging the importance of student wellbeing, feeling of belonging and supporting the culture of all students/staff who attend Dr. JHG.

Mrs. Reddick is recommending that the school look into purchasing African Drums for the school using the money from the Dept to the SAC .

Dr, Robert Leek is also interested in using them with our students. He has experience using the drums and knows the type of drums most appropriate for the high school students.

Question: Can we use a portion of our SAC funds to help purchase 6-8 drums?

For the last few years, we have focussed our purchases on technology devices. \$5000 is available at this time. All members present at the SAC meeting think this is a great idea.

Lorraine Reddick made the motion that we use the \$5000 + money to purchase African Drums.

Sarah O'Toole seconded this motion to allocate and support African Drumming at Dr. JHG.

7. Student Council Report:

Co-Presidents are not present at this meeting due to exam week.

8.

Items for next meeting:

- Why has the SRCE decided to choose the MERV over the HEPA?
- Full Spectrum Lighting
- Update on upgrades to the school
- Moisture infiltration into the school

- The Parking lot- Capital Project Request has been completed
- Potholes in the Upper Parking Lot
- What can we do about the path from upper to lower parking lot? It is not appealing and at times not safe.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11PM