

School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

October 16th, 2018

1. The meeting began with a presentation by Mr. Ford Rice with an update on the upcoming project at Dr. JH Gillis. Here are a few discussion points:
 - a. The school was built in 1971 and its time for an upgrade.
 - b. We want a welcoming environment for students, parents and community members.
 - c. There was some concern with the large front windows in upgrade plans- more info to come as the upgrade project moves forward.
 - d. Mrs. Brophy made a suggestion that they consider finding a new location for the Youth Health Center (possibly old office space) as to facilitate and encourage student access.
 - e. An increase in meeting spaces could also be a focus of the project.
 - f. How can we get our students involved in this process??
 - g. There was discussion around lockdowns and what employees are responsible for controlling access to the building.
 - h. When project approved, SRCE will begin facilitating SST meetings with Dr. JH Gillis committee. At this point is when suggestions and changes to the draft plan can be discussed and either approved or denied.
 - i. Ms. Lumsden suggested that there is a need for a student centered room (a meeting place for students)in the upgrade project.
 - j. Mr. Rice also gave a brief description of the new electrical distribution system to increase energy efficiency. The mechanical, heating, ventilation, etc. will all be reworked to accommodate the new spaces.

2. SAC Agenda
 - a. It was recommended that when Regional staff presents at SAC meetings, that this be the only item on the agenda.
 - b. Introductions were made by all in attendance.
 - c. Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed.
 - i. Ms. Delaney noted two errors in last names- to be edited
 - ii. Minutes were approved by Cathy Walsh and John Blackwell.
 - d. The status of the new School Advisory Councils in N.S. was discussed and there are currently no new updates at this time. There will be a Regional School Advisory meeting on November 20th at SAERC. We hope to receive more details at that time.
 - e. Old Business- Future dates of meetings will be determined once we get more direction from SRCE.

3. New Business:
 - a. Date of Remembrance Day ceremonies was shared
 - b. The Wall of Honour Project- Brian MacNeil was contacted.
 - c. We are interested in inviting the Sexual Exploitation Unit to the school to present to all our students. Mr. Jack MacDonald will reach out to Morgan MacPherson and report back next meeting.

4. Student Council report: Students reported on the following:
 - a. The sale of Reusable straws and the SPC cards.
 - b. The Children's Book Drive- Donated to the local hospital, the Naomi Society and the International Program.
 - c. Garbage clean-up is being completed on Fridays by member of the student council. This is an incredible task and our students have done a tremendous job.
 - d. The Terry Fox event raised \$540.
 - e. There will be a Halloween Dance on October 24th.
 - f. Concern over the stairs leading to the upper parking lot was brought up. The stairs are icy and dangerous to students and community members using them. Mr. Jack MacDonald will look at options with the building operator to ensure that they are safe and free of ice. This will be added to the agenda at November OH&S meeting.
 - g. Ms. Lumsden acknowledged all the work council has been doing at the school. There was a brief discussion about possible large fundraiser to replace the Annual Walk-a – Thon. To be discussed at a later date.

5. Principals Report: Mr. MacDonald reported on the following items
 - a. The October 29th In-Service- IPP/ Adaptation Day for staff
 - b. October 3rd- Regional In-Service with Dr. Hollie- Culturally Professional Pedagogy
 - c. October is Mi'kmaq History Month
 - i. We have an increase in number of indigenous students
 - ii. We have requested support from the SRCE in supporting these students both in and out of the classroom environment.
 - d. October 10th- World Mental Health Day- "Let's Chalk it Up!"
 - e. October 11th- Dr. Perrera- Engaging boys/Men in addressing sexual violence.
 - f. Mid-term assessments are coming up
 - g. Post-Secondary Institutions will be on site to speak with students regarding programs offered.
 - h. There is an NSCC open house taking place at the NSCC in Port Hawkesbury. We have 78 students traveling to this event.
 - i. There will be an IB Auction and Dinner taking place.
 - j. October conferences will take place October 26th- No classes for students.

6. Next meeting date selected: December 4th
7. Motion to adjourn- Angela Penny and seconded by Melissa Smith.