



LeMarchant-St. Thomas SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC): Minutes

September 17th, 2024, 4:30pm

Members Present

Moira Cavanaugh	Principal	mcavanaugh@hrce.ca
Lindsay Gallivan	Chair/Parent Rep	lindsgallivan@gmail.com
Kathleen Porta	Secretary/Parent Rep	supernurse.kat@gmail.com
Maureen Mitchell	Community rep	Maureenmitchell0@gmail.com
Kim Gallivan	Teacher	kgallivan@hrce.ca
Brownyn Burke	Vice Char/Parent Rep	brownynburke@icloud.com
Pearl Michael	Community Rep	pearlamatheson@gmail.com
Kim Healy	Community Rep	kimehealy@gmail.com

Regrets

Gabe Rose	Vice Principal	GRose@hrce.ca
Janine Hagerman	Teacher	jhagerman@hrce.ca
Jen LeBlanc	Community Rep	jen.leblanc@dal.ca
Damon Cunningham	Teacher	damon.cunningham@hrce.ca
Juan Cruz Baldassarre	Parent Rep	baldassarre@me.com
Hannah Cusack	Teacher	hannah.cusack@gnspes.ca

Observers:

Robert Grace – Parent
Aldona Wiacek – Parent
Hideyo Kawashima – Parent

Last Meeting May 21st, 2024

1. Additions of any other business to the agenda

Parent rep, Aldona Wiacek brought to the committee the issue with Excel afterschool care. Currently there is a waitlist of 120 children for excel. There are concerns from

Aldona and other LMST parents that the demand for afterschool care is higher than what is offered.

The province is promising 3000 new spots via the brighter futures initiative, but there is still a lack of resources for parents wanting afterschool care. Concerns expressed for parents having to make informal arrangements for care while working and the lack of quality programming that is offered by the province and that the growth of our school communities lack the resources to support parents.

Moira discussed the old YMCA program that was run out of Central Junior high school and was then moved to LMST and then it was turned into Excel to simplify and just have one afterschool program (Excel). All children in the YMCA program were accepted into the EXCEL program.

Staffing is an issue when planning the afterschool programs. There is discussion around growing the excel program to 150 students (currently have 120 registered). 3 additional Excel monitor positions have advertised to enable an extra 20-30 students who were in the program last year but have been put on the wait list for this school year. This would bring the total number of students to 140-150 registered in the program.

The issue is outside the control of LMST, but Aldona brought up that parents who have been registered in the year prior should be granted access to the program with the option to opt out.

Question about reinstating the YMCA program, enlarging the EXCEL program or to include the surrounding schools (Inglis, Tupper) as this is a regional problem for parents in other catchment areas and not just an LMST problem. Lindsay also indicated that EXCEL access is an issue where her step daughter attends school in Bedford. A letter written by Aldona was sent to Lindsay to forward to the other committee members and to Juan who sits on the regional SAC committee to share at the regional level.

2. Review and approval of minutes

Members approved the minutes from the May 21st meeting.

3. Discussion of New Business

Plan for new SAC rep:

Kat and Juan stepping down. Lindsay and Bronwyn will stay on for another year. Call for new reps will be done in the October 1st newsletter and will advertise the request for a parent rep from each English and French. Expression of interest will be sent to Moira and Lindsay.

SAC Chairs get to attend provincial professional development days for SAC's and admin. Lindsay and Moira will be attending the Friday PD day on September 27th where there will be guest speakers, different topics and breakout groups.

Updates on Old Business

No updates

4. Administration Update & Student Success Planning Discussion

Theme for the month of September is *Friendliness*, reminding students to be a friend to new students and old students and reach out and make new friends.

New staff at school include: a part time administrative assistant, 2 new music teachers and a new core French teacher

There are 26 classrooms this year for 596 students with the portable in use for Ms. Englehutt's class

Stand up to bullying day was a success

School wide fire drill and lock down drill were done

School and classroom photos are done and should be assessable in the next few days for viewing.

This year's school play will be Disney's *The Lion King Jr.* Auditions and callbacks to be done before end of the month.

Battle of the books is beginning

Strings and band will be starting soon

Grade 6 leaders- help out as lunch monitors and lead classroom lines outside. They help with equipment and organize, stamp new books and MC for assemblies.

Professional learning with student success plan-working on a neurolinguistic approach, the use of phonics, computational fluency,

New LMST website is still in the works, it will be a streamlined website

Cafeteria update: LMST will no longer use Tiny Feast. Chartwell's will be the new food provider. Orders will be open October 18th with a start date of October 28th for service. Moira will be attending a workshop to see how it will work.

September 30th is Truth and Reconciliation Day. September 27th will be Orange Shirt day.

October 4th is the Terry Fox run on the field at the school

Cross country meet for grades 3-6 information has gone home. Cross country club is 2 times a week with Mr. Smith and Madame Leblanc. Permission slip to go home with students. October 9th is the cross country meet at Gorsebrook school.

5. Set date for next meeting

October 15th @4:30pm

Meetings will be every 3rd Tuesday of the month