



LeMarchant St Thomas
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC): Minutes
September 15th, 2020, 4:00pm

Members Present

Moira Cavanaugh	Principal	mcavanaugh@hrce.ca
Emilie Tsirigotis	Vice Principal	eTsirigotis@hrce.ca
Graeme Gunn	Chair/Parent Rep	halifaxgunn@gmail.com
Daniel Makhan	Vice Chair/Parent Rep	daniel.makhan@gmail.com
Steven Beyea	Secretary/Parent Rep	steven.beyea@dal.ca
Michael Zhang	Parent Rep	michael.zhang@smu.ca
Margo Chiasson	Teacher	mchiasson@hrce.ca
Janine Hagerman	Teacher	jhagerman@hrce.ca
Martine Béland	Parent Rep	martine.beland@umontreal.ca
Lindsay Gallivan	Parent Rep	lindsgallivan@gmail.com
Jen LeBlanc	Community Rep	jen.leblanc@dal.ca
Maureen Mitchell	Community Rep	maureenmitchell0@gmail.com
Jen LeBlanc	Community Rep	jen.leblanc@dal.ca

Others Present

Kate Hopfner	Parent
Susan Dumberton	Parent

Regrets

Sara McFarlane	Teacher
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1. Additions of any other business to the agenda

None. Introductions were made of current and new members.

2. Review and approval of June 2020 minutes

Error in meeting date listed in draft minutes was corrected, and minutes were approved.

3. New Business

a. *Discussion on revision of SAC bylaws:* Wording to increase the number of parent reps was discussed. Moira raised that it is possible that the province may require that parent, staff and community need to have equal representation. Daniel then proposed wording that is then consistent with this – i.e. that we shall have equal representation – and Moira noted that it remains up to us to decide how many SAC members to allow. Draft wording will be sent by Graeme to Moira, who will then check with the province on ensuring that this is consistent with their requirements.

b. *Election of New Executive Roles:* Discussion was held on the description of and time commitment for executive roles. Members asked to identify their interest to the current chair via email by the following Friday, and a vote will be held by email if needed.

c. *Administration Update on the School Re-opening:* Moira provided an update on how things went in the first week. Everyone is excited to be back, and overall it seems that things are going fairly well. Problem solving how to handle the COVID requirements and the ability to flow the children was a challenge. Preventing crowding was something that has slowly gotten better over the week. Having all kids come in at 9:40 is its own challenge, as is going from 1 to 3 buses (which is a new change for this year) and having 40-50 kids coming on the buses compared to 25 last year. Moira feels that every day is getting smoother, and the kids are also finding the new routines easier as they get used to them over the past week. She also expressed that there were positives coming out of this process, and that maybe some new ways to do things may continue going forward. For example, it was discussed that with the new morning routine where students can all enter on their own at 8:40 the teachers were reporting that the students were calmer at the start of the day.

They have also added an “extra” outdoor fitness session in the afternoon. Lunch hour is now staggered, as are the associated outdoor recess times. During lunchtime the cleaning staff also does sanitizing of the tables in the class, so as to achieve two cleanings a day. Emilie described that overall the kids are doing well with handling the lunch process in the classrooms. Moira provided an update on the cafeteria lunch service. They are working on a new system for online ordering, which they hope to have up and going, tentatively, for the week of Oct 5th. Moira is trying to get them to commit to that as soon as possible. Moving forward then, the ordering will be solely online, and food will be delivered to the classrooms directly. Martine asking about the origin of the change to the busing route distance, and Moira clarified that this was a wider change linked to HRCE wide changes in policy and the new busing contract. Moira also talked about how they are in the planning stages for how things would work if they have to shrink class sizes because of COVID. The third option is of course to have all the kids home again. Lindsay asked for an update on how teachers are managing distancing etc in the classroom. Moira described that the teachers are striving to be consistent with public health regulations, and that part of that is the requirement for masks in the classroom in the older kids given that it can be hard to keep kids 2 meters apart. However, the teachers are simply striving to aspirational goals for how to manage this. Emilie talked about how teachers are using the Caring Schools program as part of the mechanism to talk to kids about empathy for others during the pandemic.

5. **Any other business**

a. **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** Moira welcome the new VP and new staff who have joined the LMST team. Theme for this month is Friendliness. Leo the lion, the school mascot, will be visiting all the classes. Currently have 548 students, which is 24 classes (an increase of 1 over the past year). The first fire drill of the year was completed today, and a lockdown drill will take place next week, and a parent update on that will be sent next week before the drill. The Standup Against Bullying Day went forward, with teachers doing a variety of activities in the class. The building update is that the stain glass windows from the old school were installed this summer by the cafeteria, and they also installed more bike racks as well as 3 new ball toss play structures were installed 2 weeks ago. Curriculum night will be held

virtually on September 17th. On the 24th the phys ed teachers in particular will be doing some discussion and associated activities on Terry Fox. There is a PD day next Friday.

- b. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Moira raised whether SAC would be willing to consider funding additional play equipment for some of the new outdoor recess “zones”, which would be about \$1,000. Daniel put forward a motion to approve this request, up to a maximum value of \$1,100, which was seconded by Steven. Motion passed.

6. Dates for next meeting:

October 20, 2020 4:30pm