

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

10 October, 2017

Le Marchant St. Thomas staff room, 4:35 – 5:34 pm

Members Present:

Moira Cavanaugh	Principal
Monica Stoilov	Vice Principal
David Jakeman	Chair, Parent
Laura White	Secretary, Parent
Andrew Boyne	Parent
Emily Thompson	Teacher
Karine Babineau	Teacher
Claire McParland	Community Representative

Members Absent:

Judy Obersi	Co-Chair, Parent
Nancy Beck	Community Representative
Adele Beaton	Teacher

Participants:

Graeme Gunn	Parent
Patrick Moan	Parent

1. Additions to Agenda:

- a) status of petition drafted in September
- b) communication of information on new school status to parent/guardian community

2. Review and Approval of 12 September, 2017 Minutes:

Motion to approve: AB

Seconded: DJ

3. Old Business:

a) SAC training (MC):

-roles & responsibilities, EECD Class Cap Guidelines, new Attendance and Engagement policy: 19 October at Citadel 6:30-8:30 pm. RSVP by 15 October

b) Replacement School Discussion:

-Petition letter no longer relevant as drafted last month. DJ will write a letter to elected officials requesting a confirmation and official communication of the date that the replacement school will open.

-DJ sent an email update after a face to face communication with Paul LaFleche (Deputy Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal Department) (Attachment 1).

-Further details from the DJ/PL conversation:

i) Province will be accepting the lowest bidder (information available on TIR website) from the April/17 tender process with amendments.

ii) Exceeding the planned budget will not delay the process.

iii) The location and make-up (grade levels) of the French school board peninsula school will be a factor in deciding how many students to design LMST for. This decision is expected to be made this fall.

-Parent/guardian questions on the replacement school opening date etc. should go to elected officials including Cindy Littlefair.

**See Attachment 2 for 12 October/17 email update on replacement school from PM.*

-GG: changing french immersion boundaries could effect the size of replacement school. MC: opening up a discussion on school boundaries could delay the construction of the replacement school

-MS: <75% of LMST students walk to school, updated numbers to be determined from the results of the School Travel Planning surveys that went out in September

c) New SAC parent/guardian member election

-one English stream parent and two French Immersion parents volunteered to run for the vacant position on the SAC.

-per the recent bylaw update adding the phrase "Efforts will be made to ensure parent/guardian representation of French immersion and English stream children", a motion was put forward.

Motion to select GG, the one English stream parent to serve on the SAC: DJ

Seconded: AB

All in Favour

-No election is required. GG will serve on the SAC, and the French Immersion parents who volunteered are encouraged to attend SAC meetings as participants.

4. New Business:

a) a thank you letter from the SAC to Judy Obersi will be drafted

b) fence at NW corner of playground:

-section of fence erected to close off this entry/exit point to the school yard in 2016/17 had been damaged over the summer. It became a safety hazard and has since been removed.

-a work order is in the HRSB system for fence replacement, MC will follow up on the status

-supervision of the children can be maintained without the fence

5. Administration Update (MC):

a) Theme for October is respect.

b) The field is now open via the two playgrounds. Will begin by using the field at recess, then try lunch time. We now have enough lunch monitors after advertising online at Dal and SMU.

c) Student Success Plan (SSP) – year one of five.

-PD day in September focused on programming (i.e techniques and strategies) for students. Staff gained a deeper understanding of what students with a learning disability may go through when faced with a difficult task. Teachers also spent time expanding their understanding of program adaptations (i.e. where to sit in the classroom) for students. Staff feedback was very positive.

-Admin will lead staff through a self-assessment in the areas of math and literacy. We will then look at the data collected from this self-assessment to see if there are any trends. Trends in the data (classroom and provincial) should point us in the direction to take. This could take a month to complete.

d) new website:

-using the HRSB template

-will be managed by MC/MS only

-should be up by January, 2018

e) twitter: started tweeting

f) Oct 11: cross country meet for grades 4-6

g) Oct 16-20: Grade 6 assessment week: French math & English language arts

h) Oct 23: picture retakes

i) Oct 23-26: iWalk walk to school week (actually all of October as administered by the Ecology Action

Centre). Theme will be to celebrate life at LMST.

j) Oct 26: Halloween movie night at Gorsebrook

k) Oct 27: PD day

l) Oct 31: walk-a-thon

6. Items moved to next meeting's agenda:

None.

7. Actions:

a) DJ: write letter to elected officials requesting a confirmation and official communication of the date that the new school will open

b) DJ: draft thank you letter to Judy

c) all: RSVP to MC if you will attend the 19 October SAC training before 15 October

d) MC: follow up on the status of fence replacement work order

8. Next meeting: 4:30 pm on November 7th

Attachment 1

From: David Jakeman <David.Jakeman@Dal.Ca>

Sent: October 2, 2017 1:12 PM

To: Graeme Gunn; Ines Rei; Boyne, Sarah; Piia Lintunen; Columba McParland; Elizabeth Wozniak; Leah Rimmer; Nancy Beck; Patrick Moan; Tricia Barry; Boyne, Andrew (EC); Laura White; Judy Obersi

Subject: LMST update

Hi all,

Here is some information regarding the building of the replacement school. The decision regarding the size of the school will be made by HRSB and the Department of Education (DoE). Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal has provided HRSB and DoE with three design options (I suspect either ~414, ~465 or ~505 pupils, but I have no official data). This was not a redesign of the school. It keeps the previous school design but fits in the additional classrooms (and presumably expansions for the cafeteria and library sizes etc.), which will equate to small footprint increases. I was not told specifics. Nor was I told anything about parking.

The outcome of the location of the french school (Beaufort vs Bloomfield sites) and size of the french school (P-6 or P-12) will have some bearing on the decision as to the size of LMST. These decisions will likely be made this fall too.

Regarding start dates, the building work will commence in spring 2018, with the school opening in September 2019. Awarding the tender now or December 2017 will not apparently affect the school opening date. That the tender prices received in April 2017 (and are currently frozen) were over the budget estimate for the school, does not factor into whether the school will be built. It will be built.

Next steps: if you wish to try and influence these decisions, write to your MLA (Labi Kousoulis or Gary Burrill) and HRSB elected official (Cindy Littlefair) and ask others to do so.

Facts to consider:

Larger schools do not generally improve educational outcomes.

Depending on the design, a larger school will likely equate to less green space.

David

LMST SAC Chair

Attachment 2

From: Patrick Moan <patrick@civilityproject.org>

Sent: October 12, 2017 5:33 PM

To: 'David Jakeman'; 'Laura White'; 'Boyne, Andrew (EC)'; 'Judy Obersi'; 'Graeme Gunn'; 'Nancy Beck'; 'Columba McParland'; 'Elizabeth Wozniak'; 'Cavanaugh, Moira'; 'Stoilov, Monica'; 'Babineau, Karine'; 'Beaton, Adele'; 'Thompson, Emily'

Subject: LMST contract

Minor note:

Paul LaFleche called this afternoon to say that the project will be re-tendered due to the minor design to accommodate an additional 90 some students which may result in a slightly larger gym and the loss of a parking space or two. A key point Paul made was that the re-tender is not going to affect the construction start date (Spring 2018).

Patrick Moan

www.CivilityProject.org