

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

24 November, 2016

Le Marchant St. Thomas classroom, 4:32 – 5:45 pm

Members Present:

Jeanne Boudreau	Principal
Monica Stoilov	Vice Principal
David Jakeman	Chair, Parent
Judy Obersi	Co-Chair, Parent
Laura White	Secretary, Parent
Andrew Boyne	Parent
Nancy Beck	Community Representative
Claire McParland	Community Representative
Gina Jones	Educational Program Assistant
Kim Gallivan	Teacher

Participant:

Rod Sterling	Parent
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1. Review and Approval of 25 October, 2016 Minutes: LW to change attendance heading.

Motion to approve: MS

Seconded: AB

2. Additions to Agenda:

By-laws amendment (3d below).

3. New Business:

a) Cross-walk safety (JB):

-With the move to transition school, many children are crossing Watt Street on the east side of Walnut street. There is no stop sign here for cars, nor is there a marked crosswalk. There have been three near misses and one incident of a child and a car making contact at this intersection since school started.

-Councillor Wayne Mason and the police have been consulted by Alethea Lacas (AL) and Amy Crowley (AC) taking the lead on this issue. The police want a 4-way stop at the intersection of Walnut and Watt, and the gap in the north west corner of the school yard fence closed off.

-Police informed us that in order to qualify for a crossing guard, the crossing must have a marked crosswalk. It is unlikely that a crossing guard will be provided at this location as there is a crossing guard one block to the east at Watt and Le Marchant.

-Norm Collins (crosswalk flags advocate) has indicated that the intersection is not a candidate for orange flags as there are no painted crosswalk markings.

-A petition to be signed by parents will be initiated by AL and AC requesting that the intersection be made into a 4-way stop with a crosswalk.

4. Old Business:

a) School Yard Safety (RS):

-The current transition school playground has a number of gaps in the fence surrounding the playground. For safety and security reasons, the gap at the north west corner of the playground should be closed.

-The gap midway along the Le Marchant Street fence has already been temporarily closed using a spare section of fencing.

-The issue was presented to the Home & School (H&S) committee at their last meeting. As the H&S is primarily responsible for social events and fund raising, the discussion was moved to this SAC meeting (as the SAC advises the administration on school and community issues) (JB).

- Both Halifax Parks & Rec and the HRSB have indicated that they do not provide fencing for schools.
- The existing fence was paid for by the H&S (CMcP).
- After school hours, the school yard is open to the public.
- The cost of replacing the north west gap in the fence has been estimated at \$800-900.
- Motion to support the temporary closure of the north west gap in the fence: DJ
 Seconded: LW
 All in Favour: JO, AB, NB, CMcP, GJ, KG.
- As recommended by the SAC, JB will request funding for the fence closure from the H&S. Some combination of staff and H&S funds may be used to pay for the fence closure.
- A request will be made to Wayne Mason to communicate the effective closure date of the fence gap to the community (NB/CMcP).

b) Student Support Plan (JB): Met with Lisa Daniel, HRSB School Improvement Consultant. The path forward for year 5 of 5 is:

- 1) wait for September provincial assessment results
- 2) update the 38 page Student Success Plan Summary Report (prepared by KG)
- 3) LMST representatives and the HRSB discuss the draft report
- 4) the report is finalized

c) School Steering Team (SST) (DJ):

- The SST met on November 8th.
- The architects are addressing the requirement for large windows into the hallways from classrooms so that teachers can supervise students inside the room and in the reading nooks simultaneously.
- The parking lot is 10% less asphalt area than the current lot, but the number of parking spaces is increasing from 37 to 41. There are currently 38 staff members at LMST (MS).
- The increased size of the school footprint results in a loss of play space of 500 ft².
- The community meeting has not been scheduled.
- Our enrollment is over 430 children (JB).

d) Update the LMST by-laws such that a parent from the English student body be included on the SAC. (LW/DJ)

- The bylaws will be amended in time for the next SAC election (September, 2017).

4. Other Business:

None.

5. Administration Update (JB):

a) Dec 1st: PD day. Morning session on Assessment delivered by Cheryl Meredith.

b) Dec 3rd: Breakfast with Santa 9:00-12:00.

c) Dec 5th: All children will participate in one hour of coding. Grades P-3: Bee-Bots (6 donated by Brilliant Labs, we bought 2), grades 4-6: Spheros (we have 14) and one drone.

d) Dec 7th: Nourish Your Roots food boxes will be delivered to the school

e) Dec 14th: Grades P-3 concert at Gorsebrook 6:30 pm. More seats may be available to families than in the past as we have a larger venue.

f) Two classes have visited seniors at Saint Vincent's Nursing Home – made cards, played games.

g) Last day of classes is 21 Dec.

h) Many classes will attend the Nutcracker performance.

i) Students have been learning Capoeira through the PERFORM! program.

j) Buses booked for gym outings and Gorsebrook concert rehearsal transportation (cost \$12000 for buses and activities). \$23000 in total has been spent to date this year on school expenses (combination of staff and H&S fund raising efforts).

k) Repairs/changes outstanding:

-Door to office juts out at about 30 degrees to the office wall. It should be flat with the office wall per the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

-The roof is leaking.

-There is no internet or phone service in the music pavilion.

l) We have four after school clubs organized: ukulele, glee, spelling and Go. We are in search of a coding volunteer for a tech club.

6. Other business:

None.

7. Items moved to next meeting's agenda:

None.

8. Actions:

a) JB will request funding for the north west fence gap temporary closure from the H&S.

b) NB/CMcP will request that Wayne Mason to communicate the effective closure date of the fence gap to the community.

c) DJ/All: Update the LMST by-laws such that a parent from the English student body be included on the SAC in time for the next SAC election (September, 2017).

9. Next meeting: January 12th 4:30 pm

Meeting adjourned 5:45 pm.