

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

04 June, 2018

LeMarchant St. Thomas staff room, 4:30 - 5:20 pm

Members Present:

Moira Cavanaugh	Principal
David Jakeman	Chair, Parent
Graeme Gunn	Vice-Chair, Parent
Laura White	Secretary, Parent
Adele Beaton	Teacher
Karine Babineau	Teacher
Claire McParland	Community Representative
Nancy Beck	Community Representative

Members Absent:

Monica Stoilov	Vice Principal
Andrew Boyne	Parent
Adele Beaton	Teacher

Participants:

Julie MacLean	Acting Vice-Principal, Teacher
Steve Beyea	Parent
Judy Obersi	SST member, Parent

1. Additions to Agenda:

LW: changes to art teacher funding

2. Review and Approval of 24 April, 2018 Minutes:

Approved, no changes.

3. Old Business (DJ):

a) New School Update:

-Krista Ranahan (KR) is the project manager with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR)

-The field and playgrounds are closed for the remainder of the construction period. MC understood from the Green Space committee meeting at city hall with Wayne Mason on 15 May that the field was closed for re-seeding which is a one year process. NB understood that the field would be used during the build as a lay down/parking area. MC will clarify with KR.

-MC confirmed that the school logo will go on the gym floor. The \$5K allocation for art is a separate project. The lion head graphic used in the winning logo (design E, Cole Miller) was found online as a stock photo at www.shutterstock.com. The image can be purchased for a flat fee for ~500 000 uses. MC/GG will follow-up to make sure that the school will not have to pay for the use of the logo in the future.

b) SAC elections in September:

-DJ, AB and LW are finishing their three year terms in September/18.

-Two parents responded to MC's email sent yesterday regarding seeking new SAC members and SB is interested in joining the SAC next year. In September, MC will email parents again, and an election will be held if necessary.

-NB and CMcP will continue on as community representatives.

4. New Business (LW):

-What is happening with the art program instruction for next year?

-MC: Yes, we have lost Ms. Nicholson as an art teacher at LMST. The total art instructional funding for the Halifax Regional Centre for Education has decreased slightly from \$15 000 to \$14 600. Classroom teachers will deliver the art curriculum by integrating it with other subjects. Also, two art specialists (for example, dance, theatre or visual arts specialists) are available for booking to run special projects with the students. The reason for the change is to make art education equally accessible to all students in the Regional Centre For Education.

-The pottery lab will remain at St. Catherine's.

-Schools can also apply for grants to bring in Artists in the Schools <https://artsns.ca/grants-awards/artists-schools>

-JM: Teachers can complete a visual arts certificate at NSCAD if interested.

-Mme. Knubley will be teaching art and tech-ed at a junior high next year.

5. Administration Update (MC):

a) Theme for June is perseverance. Lou the lion (one for grades P-3, one for grades 4-6) continues to be a hit, visiting classes on a weekly basis by draw. Students compete for Lou by demonstrating the monthly theme and earning a ballot to enter the draw.

b) Planning for 2018/19:

-73 registrants for Primary so far (69 French and 4 English). Primary orientation went well.

-We will have 20 classes next year.

-Grade 6 orientations at Gorsebrook and Central have taken place.

-Parent info session for Gorsebrook is 05 June.

-Strings scheduling: will be Monday and Wednesday after school for grades 4, 5 and 6 at 3 pm, 4 pm and 5 pm (not determined yet which grade will have which time slot.) Running the strings program at lunch is no longer possible (staffing issue).

-We are getting a guidance counsellor, Nicole Delory who will spend 60% of her time at LMST and 40% at St. Stephen's Elementary.

-Teachers will reuse some school supplies (such as scissors) and the student fees will now be \$40 rather than \$50 per student.

c) Heritage Fair

-NB loved being a judge and was very impressed with the students' and teachers' efforts.

-Provincial fair was 31 May at Saint Mary's and five LMST students attended. Ava (gr 4, Enchanted Owl), Victor (grade 5, My Chinese Canadian Family) and Raelyn (grade 5, Climate Change) all won awards at the fair. AB: The theme was World War II and there were workshops on knitting, first aid and writing letters to veterans.

d) Students in grade 2 had the chance to see the hatching of 15 chicks in 2B. The chicks returned to their farm one week after hatching.

e) Butterflies have hatched and many were released or will be released in the Primary rooms and 1/2M, 1/2SM and 2/3J.

f) Mme. Stoilov is on extended sick leave for the remainder of the year. Mme MacLean is filling in as VP.

g) There is a teacher shortage across the country for a number of reasons. For example, the NS Jr. High cap on class sizes resulted in hiring about 200 teachers, and the Supreme Court of Canada ruling for the BC teachers union in 2016 regarding class sizes resulted in a demand for teachers in that province.

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

-Teachers met to score math and literacy assessments, examine student work and plan next steps

during the PD day on 18 May.

-Math coach Denise Johnston MacDonald did a PD session after school on Problem Solving.

-The second half of the PD day was spend reading articles (by Dr. Sharroky Hollie) about culturally responsive teaching and learning practices and we discussed/reflected on our practices. We looked at strategies that support inclusiveness. In order to teach children it is important to have a relationship with them. We want to make sure we have resources that reflect the cultural diversity of Canada.

i) 4 June: grade 6 track and field

j) 6 June: grade 4/5 track and field, music night at Gorsebrook (arrive 6 pm, starts 6:30 pm)

k) 8 June: volunteer tea at 8 am outside or in music pavilion, bike to school day

l) 13 June: public library visits classrooms to promote summer reading program

m) 14 June: grade 6 French cafe. Core students: restaurant. French immersion students: a play or video. Parents invited. Home & School LMST BBQ also 14 June.

n) 18 June: field day (half day for P-3, 4-6), will be a bouncy castle. (June 19th is rain date.)

o) 27 June: grade 6 closing

p) 28 June: Assessment and Evaluation day

q) last day of school

r) MC away 3 weeks in July, otherwise will communicate any news on the new school construction throughout the summer.

6. Items moved to next meeting's agenda:

None.

7. Actions:

a) MC: clarify with KR if the field is closed for re-seeding or for use by the construction contract owner

b) MC/GG: follow-up to make sure that the school will not have to pay for the use of the LMST lion logo image in the future. 05 June, Action Complete via email: LMST will purchase the rights to use the image indefinitely from Adobe Stock for US\$79.99 (a lower fee than shutterstock charges for the same image).

8. Next meeting: Will determine in September.