

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

24 April, 2018

LeMarchant St. Thomas staff room, 4:34 – 5:46 pm

Members Present:

Moira Cavanaugh	Principal
David Jakeman	Chair, Parent
Graeme Gunn	Vice-Chair, Parent
Laura White	Secretary, Parent
Emily Thompson	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:

Steve Beyea	Parent
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1. Additions to Agenda:

None.

2. Review and Approval of 22 February, 2018 Minutes:

4:36 pm: Motion to approve: CMcP, Seconded: DJ. Approved, no changes.

3. Old Business (DJ):

a) SST (School Steering Team):

- The SST has been dissolved.
- The new school construction is in progress.
- The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) is hesitant to hold a public info session on the revised school design.
- The revised design is 15' longer in both the north and south directions.
- It was discussed that although there are signs posted that no dogs are permitted on the field, they are often there outside of school hours.
- NB commented that the new design has the parking extending beyond the cherry tree and right up to the fence along the Vernon Street side of the school (drawings provided by MLA Gary Burrill).
- LW commented that the new school design is posted on the (former) HRSB website.
<https://www.hrsb.ca/about-hrsb/operations-services/capital-projects/new-halifax-south-peninsula-p-6>

b) Logo contest:

- Design E wins after a discussion by the group on artistic achievement vs. suitability for a logo.
- The SAC was very impressed by all of the designs presented (top 5, some of top 10 chosen by students). MC had explained to the students that we may combine aspects of several entries to create one logo.

4. New Business (CMcP/MC):

- How is mental health promoted at the school?
- Mental health is in the curriculum. We have a school social worker. We have requested a guidance counsellor. The Learning Center teacher has taught the zones of regulation to several classes and will continue to expand on this teaching with more classes next year. The Zones are discussed with

children who learn to put a name to their feelings green/yellow/red. Using words to describe our feelings is encouraged. If you are feeling low, tell someone and try to use strategies taught to feel better.

5. Administration Update (MC):

a) Theme for April is kindness. A great question to ask your child is: "What have you done to be kind today?"

b) 67 registrants for Primary so far (64 French and 3 English). There are out of area requests: 11 French and 8 English. There will likely not be room to accept the French requests, but there is room in the English program. These requests will be reviewed in August/September.

- \$50 per child will be collected for school supplies. LW inquired if this can be reduced by re-using items like scissors, rulers etc.

-Class configurations: Any parent/guardian that has an educational reason for making a particular request is asked to do so in writing to MC by 11 May, 2018.

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

-Literacy goal: deeper comprehension

-Math goal: problem solving/communication

-Teachers have worked in their Professional Learning Communities to decide on some assessment questions for literacy and math goals. They will be administering these assessments and scoring them together. The results will be reviewed in early June and at that time the next steps will be planned.

d) School Travel Planning (STP):

-The committee met in April. All are welcome and encouraged to participate at meetings. Next meeting is May 3rd from 1:45-2:45 pm (tentative).

-Natalia from the Ecology Action Centre had a booth set up during parent teacher interviews and shared information on STP with interested parents/guardians. People were encouraged to place a sticker locating their home on the map of the local area and share their email address in efforts to connect people together that may be able to start or enlarge their walking groups.

e) Discours d'art oratoire – all grades 5-6 FI students wrote and prepared for this public speaking event put on by Canadian Parents for French. Cohen in 6C and Sheelagh in 5J and placed 2nd and 4th respectively in the event. Cohen will go to provincials in May.

f) Battle of the Books – LMST defeated Sacred Heart in the semi-finals and Sunnyside Elementary in the finals.

g) Book Fair – Over \$7k worth of books sold, providing \$4180 for our library. Thank you to our volunteers lead by Alison Mark and Martha Beyea

h) LMST choir – sang at the Kiwanis festival and had an excellent performance. They will be encouraged to sing in the competitive division next year in order to receive feedback on their efforts.

i) Grade 6 trip – will be to McNabs Island with Kattuck Expeditions. The boat ride will be one hour in each direction. After exploring the island and learning leadership and survival skills, students will dine at East Side Mario's. A \$4k grant plus \$1k from the Home & School will fund the trip.

j) Physical education news:

- Grade 4-6 students went to Dalplex again on 5 April.

- There will be run club for grades 1-6.

- Students encouraged to attend the Youth Running Series events (schools with the highest participation rates win cash prizes).

- Track and field practice has begun.
- Two carts were purchased to lock up the balls (they had been going missing). Leaders are helping to ensure that the balls are picked up after recess and lunch.
- Purchasing more equipment for recess/lunch play.

k) Heritage Fair is this Friday.

- On Thursday, grades P-3 get to see the projects.
- There will be 25 judges reviewing the projects, and parents/guardians and community members may also vote for their favorite projects (1:15-2:45 pm).
- Three or more students will advance to attend the Provincial Fair on 31 May/01 June

l) 17 May - Sting night at the Forum

m) 17 May - Primary Orientation at 1:30-2:30 pm, parent info session at 6:30 pm

n) 18 May - PD day

o) 22 May - grade 6 orchestra workshop

p) 26 May - Spring Fair 10 am-1 pm

q) 4 June - Grade 6 track and field (must be in run club to participate, rain date 6 June)

r) 5 June - Grade 4/5 track and field (must be in run club to participate, rain date 6 June)

s) 6 June - Music night at Gorsebrook. Grades 4-6 Band, Strings and Choir will perform.

t) 14 June - BBQ

u) The Atlantic Street old Grammar school location will be used as a Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial school next year.

v) working on class configurations for next year: may have to exceed the cap in some classes (cap is 20-22 per class for grades P-2, 25-27 students for grades 3-6)

7. Items moved to next meeting's agenda:

None.

8. Actions:

- a) MC - will determine if some school supplies can be reused for next year
- b) parents/guardians: if necessary, request a particular class for 2018/19 school year in writing to MC by 11 May, 2018

9. Next meeting: 4:30 pm on 5 June