



School Advisory Council
Wednesday, January 20th, 2021
AGENDA

Present: Paul Brown, Pauline MacKinnon, Holly DeCoste, Jake Breen, Julianne Connors, Michelyn Grenier, Monica Murphy, Jake Breen, Tammy Breen, Tanya Francis, Cathy Hartling

- Call to Order – Tanya Francis 6:02 pm
- Approval of Agenda – 1st Julieanne, 2nd Holly
- Approval of meeting summary (minutes) Monica
- Business arising from the meeting summary

1) iPad Vote:

Last meeting, Paul brought forth a new request. The school wanted to purchase 12 iPads that will be shared between the grades Primary, Primary/1, and the Grade 1's of the 1/2. The cost for the iPad will be roughly around \$5500, the iPads will help with the technology outcomes for these grade levels.

Currently, because of the lack of resources the technology curriculum is not being delivered or the outcomes being met for these grades. iPads are more user friendly for the younger students, they can be used independently by students with little intervention needed from teachers. In addition, they can be used for Raz kids, a subscription the school pays for to help students explore literacy skills. The iPads can also be used for practicing letter sounds, and for writing with book creator.

Paul only received three email responses relating to the vote. This meeting a vote will take place with the voting members that are present. If a consensus cannot be reached, a majority vote is required of the quorum present for the proposal to be approved.

Voting members present: Pauline MacKinnon, Jake Breen, Julianne Connors, Michelyn Grenier, Monica Murphy, Tanya Francis, Cathy Hartling.

Result: A majority of the members voted for the proposal. 12 iPad will be purchased for the school.

2) Sports Recognition

Sandy Bowie has emailed Paul the list of the sports award winner from last year. The school is currently in the process of figuring out the best way to recognize the sport winners from last year.

- (a) The school can post the winners on the EAECA Twitter account. Currently the SRCE is reviewing all social media accounts within the region. Until further notice, we will not be tweeting out anything new.
- (b) The Home & School website is also a possible platform to display the award winners.

3) Water Bottles

The water bottles were dropped off and have been accessed by students.

- **New business**

- *Student Acknowledgement*

Paul spoke with the Primary, Primary/1, ½, and 2/3 teachers. The teachers met and discussed what awards they will be giving out, and the templates they will be using. We are aiming to get the 1st awards given out at the end of the month. Administrators will be visiting the various classrooms to handout the awards.

- **Updated SAC Budget**

The EAECA SAC hasn't spent any of their budget this year. Currently there is \$14850.68 in the account. We were told that whatever isn't spend should carry over to next year.

1. Tanya Francis asked what the money has been used for in the past.

Paul responded that the money has been used for educational purposes and can be used for many things that benefit the academic outcomes of the school, and also things that could improve the overall environment and climate of the school.

Principal's Report

(1) Professional Learning Week (Jan 4th – 8th)

Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Librarians, Secretaries, Early Years Educators, & Student Support workers all took part in the Professional Development Learning week (January 4th – 8th). There were numerous virtual sessions put on by the SRCE, and also self-directed virtual sessions that staff could take part in. The Staff ended off the week by attending a trauma informed session that was put on by our school psychologist.

(2) Picture Day

Picture day took place on the 13th. The process went smoothly.

(3) Exam Week (Jan 25th - 28th)

Exams for students in grades 9-12 will be taking place the week of January 25th – the 28th. Nova Scotia Virtual Exams will be taking Thursday, January 21st.

(4) Report Cards

Report cards for Grades 9-12 will be distributed Wednesday, February 10th. They will be emailed to both student and guardian emails.

(5) Chromebooks

- (a) The East has received Chromebooks for all our Teacher Assistants, Early Years Staff, and all of our grade 2 and 3 students. Every student in grades 2-12 will now have access to a Chromebook.

There was a question asked about the reasoning behind students taking the Chromebooks home every night and not leaving them at school in their desks.

Paul responded that the reason why students are taking their Chromebooks home is because if the school is closed abruptly for a week or two, the students would have access to technology at home so they would still have the opportunity to continue their learning. Currently, we only have 16 students who do not have access to internet at home, so a majority of our students would have the opportunity to continue their learning online.

➤ **Public Input.**

Julianne Connors raised the following concerns about:

- 1) Not having supervision for students in classes during Indoor Recess and Lunch days. Paul let the group know that it is a priority and that we will look into her concerns. Currently, we are down a lunchtime supervisor and are still looking to fill that void.
- 2) Students having a difficult time understanding one of the recent substitutes at the school. Is there a requirement that substitutes need to speak a certain level of English to be hired by the SRCE as a teacher? Paul responded that all substitutes that enter the building are hired through the SRCE and are licensed and qualified to teach in the positions that are filling in for.

Holly DeCoste raised the following concerns.

- 1) Students are having a hard time accessing the school counsellor for help with information concerning scholarships and post secondary opportunities. The students are feeling frustrated that they are not able to access the counsellor during crucial times, especially when the scholarships and school applications are time sensitive. Tammy Breen also expressed her frustration and the amount of stress and anxiety that the absence of a school counsellor causes students especially during exam and applying for scholarships. deadline times.

Paul responded saying the Career Counsellor who comes in every Wednesday could help with some of these issues.

- 2) Holly also asked about the CO-OP class, and if the requirement for a full Co-op credit was still 80 community hours. Since the opportunities for summer Co-ops did not happen this summer. Is there still this expectation? Paul said that he will be in contact with Kevin Walker the Coordinator of Youth Pathways for the answer.

Julianne Connor asked:

- 1) If Chromebooks will be delivered to the students by next week. Paul responded that at this time, the expectation is that the newly delivered Chromebooks will be delivered to the students early next week with the expectations that the teachers will be using the Chromebooks in regularly in their daily lessons.
- 2) Is the same procedure of having a student who displays Covid symptoms in place? Could a reminder go out to families to continue doing the required screening of their child before they leave the house go on the bus to attend school?

Paul responded that the procedures are still the same. Guardians are required to call 811, if their child is showing two or more Covid symptoms and if the child needs to take a Covid test. Public Health would contact the school if there was ever a positive case.

We will also add the daily Covid reminder checks to the Monday FLASH and also send an alert out to all families.

➤ Next Meeting: Wednesday February 24, 2021 @ 6:00 pm

Adjournment – 6:40 pm