

## School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

14 January, 2016

Le Marchant St. Thomas Staff room, 4:30 – 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
Jennifer McMillan	Teacher
Kate McLeod	Teacher
Adele Beaton	Teacher
Nancy Beck	Community Representative

### Guest Present:

Agnes Greer                      HRSB Supervisor

### Members Absent:

Claire McParland	Community Representative
Natalie Rosen/Matthew Snurr	Community Representatives (regrets received)

AG present as an observer. AG will conduct interviews with SAC members in April/May as part of the Principal Review process.

**1. Review and Approval of 4 November, 2015 Minutes:** No changes. Motion to approve by A. Boyne, seconded by JM.

### 2. Additions to Agenda:

a) A. Boyne: Grade 6 provincial assessments

-Noticed that province wide, student performance has declined per the Department of Education Reports online (MS confirmed that they are on the D of Ed website). What is the school board response to these findings?

b) NB: What is the role of the community reps? (i.e. support administration, non political, other roles)

c) A. Beaton: LMST photography. Adele is an amateur photographer and is shadowing a photography student. She is taking photos and collecting old photos with the intention of compiling them in a calendar. How can we reach out to the community for additional photographs from past and present students? AG: Contact students at Gorsebrook and Citadel. Plan to sell items from the school (bricks, woodwork) and photos, calendars to raise funds.

d) A. Boyne: What mechanism should the SAC use to engage the parent and wider community on the new school process?

-JB: Method of communication is up to us. Admin will work with SAC to implement.

-Wait until after the 25 January SST meeting. There is a process to follow for "enhancements".

-SST Minutes will be posted on HRSB website.

e) NB: Suggest implementing a SAC teachers award program.

-What would the criteria be?

-AG: Superintendent Awards of Excellence are prestigious.

-MS: Yes, an award from the administration would be great.

- f) NB: Does the school have a mental health awareness program?  
-A. Beaton: Yes, the curriculum addresses mental health issues.  
-Friends for Life is a resiliency training program for grade 4/5 students.  
-JM: community circle discusses how students feel regularly.

### **3. Old Business:**

a) DJ: Waye Mason responded to our letter regarding our request for a larger new school gym by saying that the process is underway to review the need for additional gym space. The Halifax Sport and Social Club (HSSC) is keen to support a request for additional gym space as they have trouble getting gym time, and could use the gym 7 days a week from 6-10 pm. Waye Mason has been informed of these details by the HSSC.

A. Boyne: Sent the same letter to his councilor, Linda Mosher and has received no response.

b) JO: The Excel and YPHD program requirements/wish-list was presented (see Attachment 1). HRSB would only be required to support the Excel program, but we would like to see both programs continue to run at LMST. Most children who stay for lunch including children enrolled in Excel are supervised by the administration and lunch monitors. Children in the YPHD program are supervised at lunch by YPHD staff.

c) JB: An update was provided on the Student Support Plan. In June, 2015, she looked at the three terms of data for the 2014/15 school year (year 3 of data collection). The data came from writing samples and math work, as literacy and mathematics are the subjects we need to improve on (our school does very well, but there is always room for improvement). It was observed that not all teachers had the same expectations for success, having expectations higher than our common understanding that we aligned with the curriculum outcomes for the province

So, for 2015/16 (year 4 of 4 of data collection, the focus will be on vertical Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) (grades Primary to 6) i.e. teachers will bring examples of low/medium/high achievements and share these examples with teachers from the other grades.

### **4. New Business:**

a) DJ: Notice of School Steering Team (SST) meeting: January 25, 6 pm: SAC Chair and Co-Chair to attend. Interested in what the plan for the two transition years will be.

AG: The transition planning is a separate process from the new school process.

JB: Has a floor plan for the St. Anne/Annex building renovation that we will look at next meeting.

### **5. Administration Update (JB):**

a) Received \$1000 cheque from the Youth Running Series Participation Challenge. LMST received the third highest dollar amount awarded to a school. The children are motivated to receive the most money this year! The \$1000 was spent on a sound system for Mrs. LeBlanc to use during class and at special events.

b) New Primary registration is 18 January – 16 February (flexible).

c) New Primary French Immersion Parent Info Session rescheduled to 20 January due to snow storm on 13 January. The all Primary parent meeting will be on 4 May, and the student's Primary Orientation is on 11 May.

d) A monthly Saturday play date for incoming grade Primary students and their parents is being organized by Tricia Barry (each month until September).

e) There will be a lock down practice on 20 January at 1:40 pm.

f) Battle of the Books is an activity for grade 4-6 students. Team members are given a list of books to read, and the titles are divided up amongst the participants. Teams attend battles where they are quizzed on what they have read as a team at Wozzles book store after school. The first battle is 26 January. An open invitation is extended to anyone who would like to watch the competitions.

g) The Tattletales Coin Campaign runs 1-28 February. Tattletales is a book store in Dartmouth that runs a student nickel drive campaign, and along with HRSB, Tattletales and publisher donations, participating schools are awarded book purchase credits at Tattletales depending on the amount of money they raise.

h) Two walk-throughs have taken place of the Ecole Beaufort building (owned by HRSB) that will be our temporary school. We are very happy with the renovation plans which include taking down the wall between the current Annex and University Ste. Anne's campus. All students will be accommodated on the one site. There will be designated rooms for library, music and art. Gym will take place outside or off site (possibly King's College, Beth Israel Synagog, or portables). Students are allotted one hour per week for gym. A walk to an off site gym would mean combining the current two half hour sessions per week into one hour long session per week.

i) Constable Sara Carter is our new Liaison Officer. We met her today and she is wonderful.

j) Received \$2500 for 3 new stationary bikes from the Home & School adult dance fundraiser (for the Annex, the basement, and KM's classroom).

k) A Student Support Grant of \$5400 has been received from the government. The plans for spending this money include (some events have already taken place):

- Paints

- A clay class for grades 4-6 by "Professional Artists in the Schools" (\$20 from parents, \$20 from the grant per hour)

- Goatworks West African drumming 2 day workshop

- The bagpipes and drum group Squid will come in the spring.

- reptile show

- astronaut visit

l) The grade 6 leadership will be decorating a "buddy bench". If a child would like a playmate, they can sit on the bench, and all students will know to keep an eye on the bench for children to invite them to play.

m) New Initiatives:

- Destination Imagination will take place in April. It is a problem solving challenge. Children compete in teams. Some challenges are short (5 minutes) and there is a central competition at Auburn Drive High School where teams from all over the Maritimes will gather.

- A boys club featuring activities such as bowling will be offered at lunch and after school for children who do not typically join in with large groups to play sports because they have different interests or have introverted personalities etc.

- The multicultural event is scheduled for 26 Feb per the recent email sent home. There has been a great response from parents interested in participating.

- A girls group has been created for girls in grades 5 and 6 to address anxiety. One activity has been to colour in adult colouring books and discuss their feelings.

## **6. Other business:**

- JB: The new school's name will remain LMST.

**7. Items moved to next meeting's agenda:**

- Look at temporary school floor plan.
- What is the role of the community reps?
- Discuss the teachers award further.
- Discuss the mechanism to engage the community in the new school planning process.

**8. Next meeting: 11 February, 4:30 pm**

Meeting adjourned 5:45 pm: Motioned by DJ and seconded by LW.

**Attachment 1**

**EXCEL and YPHD REQUIREMENTS/WISHLIST for the new LMSTS building.**

**November 19/2015, prepared by Judy Obersi**

**Excel:**

Talked to Jeff Turple, recreation programmer.

Tel: 902.464.2000 ext: 8498

LMST currently has 60 kids enrolled at excel. There is a 50-person waiting list. They think they the demand is there for at least 110 students.

In newer schools, Excel runs out of the cafeteria and uses other areas like a gymnasium that opens up to the cafeteria. They use a sink from the stage area and have access to a small office space off the stage area, to store their computer.

**Wish list:**

- Cafeteria or classrooms (30 kids per room)
- Access to a gym and stage area
- Access to a sink
- 1 or 2 fridges, depending on program size
- Access to a computer, a small office near the stage would be great.
- Storage for crafts and sports equipment (typically metal lockers)
- Area to hang backpacks and coats

**YPHD:**

Talked to Christie, head coordinator at LMSTS.

Contact for the YMCA program: 902.457.7531 – [yphd@ymca.ca](mailto:yphd@ymca.ca)

Angela, head YMCA program coordinator: ext: 224, Or Aisha (secretary): ext 222

Currently they are maxing out at 45, as they only have the one classroom. They normally would have 30 kids per classroom.

- They have pretty much the same requirements as the excel program.
- Christie also mentioned a fridge and microwave for snacks
- A family notice board
- A big chalkboard in the room.

She was wondering who would be in charge of providing the shelving, chalkboards and so forth for the space?