

## School Advisory Council (SAC) Minutes, Nov 4/15

LeMarchant St. Thomas Staff room. 4:30-5:45 pm

### Members present:

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Jeanne Boudreau   | Principal           |
| Monica Stoilov    | Vice-Principal      |
| David Jakeman     | Parent, chair       |
| Andrew Boyne      | Parent              |
| Jennifer McMillan | Resource Teacher    |
| Judy Obersi       | Parent, Chair desig |
| Kate Macleod      | Teacher             |

**Members Absent:** Claire Mcparland, Nancy Beck, Matthew Snurr/Natalie Rosen-community reps, Laura white-parent & secretary,

1. Reviewed and motioned to approve October Minutes by David, Seconded by Andrew, with minor typos to be corrected.

### 3. Old Business:

Laura and Andrew helped with revisions and Jeanne sent the school boundary policy feedback.

Bylaw updates were also completed and sent in.

### 4. New Business:

a. The student support plan (SSP) involves a strategic plan that holds the school accountable for continuous student improvement. We have to do Math and literacy assessments to see where we can improve. Although we do great, there is always room for better results. Discussions that happen: - what we are doing well, data trends we see, challenges we face for improvement.

The results are tracked annually through interim reports and we have to present the conclusions every 5 years. We are in our fourth year and will be presenting in November of 2016. Our school will sit with the board and an independent person to look at the evidence. We come up with a mission statement for math and literacy based on discussions about what we are doing well, data trends we see and challenges we face for improvement. Assessment and classroom data will be used to verify. The new data is applied every year. The constant change in curriculum does create an issue for assessment. It's like comparing apples to oranges, therefore the most powerful tool, is for teachers to be able to talk and do comparisons about what works.

The SAC's role in this is to be aware of how we are doing. It is a requirement for the SAC to look at these reports.

#### Our mission statement for math:

Our students will demonstrate improvement in their ability to independently communicate their mathematical understanding in a variety of ways, justify their thinking and make connections.

Our mission statement for literacy:

Our student will demonstrate an increased ability to communicate through writing. Specifically, students will write to fulfill a purpose, develop their ideas with detail and present their ideas in an organized sequence.

**B.** Motion by David to send a letter to Wayne Mason, councilor, to investigate additional HRM support for an even larger gym at LMST's new school.

There was a discussion around the projected school capacity portrayed in the letter (500). We believe the number they are planning for is closer to 434. Jeanne expressed caution with too large a number as more rooms, also means having to accept more students from out of area, if we don't have the numbers in our district. We had a discussion around the number of French and English classes at the school. Jeanne noted that there is a misconception that the school promotes French immersion, but we have made multiple measures to change this misconception. They now go on school trips together for example.

All agreed that the letter was well written and shows good research. Wayne needs to prove that he has support from our district to other councilors. Andrew pointed out that he had a different councilor and we agreed that since the school supports more than one councilor, we should also propose the letter to the separate councilors. David's motion to submit the letter was seconded by Jen.

**C.** David wanted us to be aware that Karen MacDonald, SAC representative for the Dartmouth South P-9 new school, told him that SST members from the SAC committee are there as observers with the capacity to change very little.

**D.** Discussion about the new school transition plan:

Jeanne did a walkthrough to assess the number of possible classrooms. St Anne will move out in April and the renovations will begin then. The wall between the Annex and St Anne will be demolished and the building will be reconnected as one. List of room requirements like the library, music room, resource room, learning centre will be provided by Jeanne to see what can be accommodated.

Dave suggested we look into the synagogue as a possible space for gym rental.

Jeanne said King's college might also be a possibility.

When it comes to the lack of playground space, we would most likely be looking at staggered recess and lunches. We don't know if the playground on the main school property could be fenced off, for use during construction. Discussion about staggered lunches: growing pains will be inevitable.

It sounds like the SST's first meeting will be in January 2016. They say 18-24 months of construction. We anticipate at least 8 months before they start demolition.

**5. Admin Report by Monica and Jeanne:**

- Remembrance day assembly Nov 10<sup>th</sup> (family members in forces invited)
- Assessment and evaluation day - Nov 13<sup>th</sup> (teachers work on report cards)
- Hold and secure - Nov 19<sup>th</sup>. Just lock the class and business as usual. 1 more lockdown to happen in January (2 per year).

- Report cards go home - Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. There is a plan to change the format of the report cards for grades P-3. The report cards will be shown from a literacy and math point of view. The outcomes are the same for all the other subjects, but they will be looking at the whole child. This was initiated by the Provincial government's Department of Education and was based on the parent's survey that was done. According to the Survey, math and literacy is considered important.
- Adult event fundraiser on Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, (at Dalhousie with an art auction).
- PD day Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, SSP (on agenda: Integrated Streamlined Curriculum and formative assessment)
- PD morning only - Nov 26<sup>th</sup> (TIENET system for reporting on students with special needs) About adaptation with new outcomes.
- Parent teacher interviews Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-4:00 and 6:00-8:00

**Other Business:**

Steering Committee members:

Donna Mackenzie, retired principal, facilitator

Agnes Greer, school admin supervisor

Ron Heiman, director of operations

David Jakeman, SAC chair

Judy Obersi, SAC co-chair

Jeanne Boudreau, Principal

Member of Infrastructure and transportation renewal

Others as needed

Every child now has a google drive account, therefore we purchased more chrome books. The walkathon generated \$8000, which we used to purchase: 20 chrome-books, t-shirts, gym equipment, Kidney shaped table, time-timers for classrooms that didn't have any. Changes in the library format cost us 10 chrome books (\$3000) and furniture (\$1500). All the portable technology will come to the new school but probably not the new library cushion chairs. This is separate from the H&S, who have their own account and are very generous.

**7. Dates for next meetings:**

January 14

February 11

**Adjournment:** David Motioned and Andrew Seconded.

**TO DO LIST:**

- a. Judy to Interview the Y and Excel still regarding new space requirements.