

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

25 October, 2016

LeMarchant St. Thomas staff-room, 4:40 – 5:55 pm

Members Present:

Jeanne Boudreau	Principal
David Jakeman	Chair, Parent
Laura White	Secretary, Parent
Andrew Boyne	Parent
Claire McParland	Community Representative (5:10 – 5:50 pm)

Members Absent:

Nancy Beck	Community Representative
Gina Jones	Educational Program Assistant
Monica Stoilov	Vice Principal
Judy Obersi	Co-Chair, Parent
Kim Gallivan	Teacher

Participant:

Graeme Gunn	Parent
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1. Review and Approval of 27 September, 2016 Minutes: 4:42 pm. LW to update typos.

Motion to approve: DJ

Seconded: JB

2. Additions to Agenda:

None.

3. Old Business:

a) Student Support Plan (JB): HRSB has the final report from LMST on years 1-4 progress. LMST is waiting on instructions from HRSB on how to proceed with year five.

b) School Steering Team (SST) (JB):

-The SST has not met this academic year. A meeting is expected to take place in the next week or two.

-The anticipated October Community meeting will take place after the SST meets.

-Dexter Construction is completing the abatement process in the old school. Demolition is expected to be complete by December.

c) Teacher opinions on new school design (JB):

-The administration consult on the new school design was held in September.

-The more recent teacher consult went well with a few comments in response from staff. Teachers want to confirm that there will be large enough windows in classroom walls to the hallways so that they can supervise their students when they are using the hallway reading nooks. The music room size will be fine, and storage space for the cellos has been confirmed.

-The parking space allotment is currently ~43 spaces. The allotment was presented as ~35 at the new school neighbours meeting in July. DJ will follow up at the next SST meeting.

4. New Business:

a) Discussion on whether to update the LMST by-laws such that a parent from the English student body be included. (GG et al)

-An outdated edition of the by-laws (2014/15 or older) is currently on the SAC website. This version stated that one parent/guardian representative on the SAC should have a child enrolled in the English

program at LMST. The current SAC agrees that this is a good idea, and are not sure how the stipulation was removed from the current version of the by-laws. At the first opportunity, the SAC will vote on updating the by-laws accordingly (no quorum tonight).

-DJ will send out the latest versions of the by-laws and letter of agreement to all SAC members.

5. Administration Update (JB):

a) Oct 27th: movie night at Gorsebrook.

b) Oct 28th: provincial in-service.

c) Oct 31st: Halloween walk-a-thon. Constable Carter will be there with a police car.

d) Nov 7th: Nurses will finish vision screening on grade Primaries that were not completed in June.

e) Nov 9th: Home & School meeting (they will meet every 6 weeks or so now, and the day of the week will alternate). The last meeting had 30 people in attendance and they hope to encourage more people to attend.

f) Nov 10th: Remembrance Day Ceremony. Parent Rod Stirling is preparing a ceremony in the playground. If the weather is poor, he will go to each classroom.

g) Nov 18th: Adult dance and silent auction at Dalhousie University Club.

h) Last fire drill of the fall to take place next week.

i) Registration to date is 430 students.

j) Repairs/changes outstanding:

-Door to office juts out at about 30 degrees to the office wall. It should be flat with the office wall per the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

-There is a drop off down to the play area outside the breezeway between the Annex and the main school. A railing is required so that children do not fall.

-About 3 full days' work is required to finish the roof. As it is hot work, the students cannot be present and the weather must co-operate to finish.

-The Home & School will fund completion of fencing in the playground to minimize gaps in the current fence. The opening on Watt Street at the west entrance to the playground, and the middle opening on LeMarchant Street will be closed to address the safety concern.

-The gym has a low ceiling and the lights and sprinklers are uncovered.

k) Technology:

-The Primaries will be coding before January using the Makey Makey tool.

-Two Spiro robots, Pascal probes, 2 laptops and 1 iPad have also arrived for the older grades.

l) A ukulele club will start in January (20 students) for grades 4 & 5. The cost is \$200 plus a ukulele. The program is being delivered by an outside vendor and organized by Mr. Miller.

m) Two parents are running an after school spelling club for grades 3-6. It is free and contact info is available on the LMST website (under Activities, Academic).

n) We cannot run lunch programs due to the lack of space available.

-Parent volunteers are needed to run some after school clubs.

-LW to draft email to parents requesting volunteers. Classrooms or the music pavilion (no chairs or

tables) are available until 5 pm daily.

-AB: Will speak to the Home & School regarding which group should lead the organization of after school programs (as the Home & School have organized the noon hour programs in the past.)

-GG: University students may have some creative ideas for programs. There are over 300 student societies at Dalhousie.

o) The school website is now up to date regarding the school location change.

p) The Home & School is providing \$7200 to pay for some special gym class programming for all of the children i.e. the wave pool, skiing, the Oval, bowling or Spikeball. Ms. LeBlanc may also borrow the Halifax Central or Dalhousie gyms.

6. Other business:

None.

7. Items moved to next meeting's agenda:

None.

8. Actions:

a) DJ will follow up at the next SST meeting on the number of parking spaces at the new school.

b) DJ will send out the latest versions of the by-laws and letter of agreement to all SAC members.

c) LW will send a call for volunteers email to parents/guardians regarding after school clubs.

d) AB will speak to the Home & School regarding which group should lead the organization of after school programs.

e) GG will solicit volunteers for after school programs from the members of student societies at Dalhousie.

9. Next meeting: November 24th 4:30 pm

Meeting adjourned 5:55 pm.