

Bridgewater Junior High School



School Advisory Council

September 19, 2017

MINUTES

Present:

Stephanie Martin	Terese Silver	Paul Rogers
Jennifer MacDonald	Patty Culbert	Kim Benjamin
David Walker	Stacey Colwell	Richard MacMillan

Daphne Egilsson

1. Call to Order at 7:07 p.m.

2. OTHER

- BES/BJHS Transition Planning for 2018-2019
 - i. In her capacity as the newly elected chair of the SAC, **Kim Benjamin** will reach out to the SAC of BES to see if they would like to meet to share ideas and experiences with transition. Daphne will get the name of the SAC chair for Kim. Other options to be explored include sharing our minutes more directly with the BES SAC and vice versa and potentially some attendance from each SAC in the other groups monthly meeting.
 - ii. It was agreed that information on the exact plan with respect to grades moving and the timeline seems to be unevenly distributed within the school community and **we** will work with the BES SAC to try to improve that. Scott Milner, SSRSB Superintendent spoke at the Chamber of Commerce meeting today and he indicated grades 5/6 are moving for September of 2018. He

also indicated that he wanted to increase the connection with SAC's as well as improving relationships with the municipalities.

- iii. Official SSRSB transition planning has not started yet, **Daphne** will share details once that happens. Key topic to be considered are what physical plant changes need to happen to the school with younger grades (lockers, fountains...), what bussing changes will be required, how do we adjust the school culture to reflect the different age mix.
 - iv. It was noted and agreed that it is important to keep a focus on our students this year and that transition planning may need to be covered by a sub-committee or at least in separate meetings. To that end, Kim asked **Daphne** to share the latest copy of the "student success plan" be shared with the SAC, to be reviewed in future meetings.
- Community Celebration on July 15th
 - i. There was an incredible turnout between 400-500 people were present. It was a very positive event.
 - Discussed the use of a Google groups account for shared file storage and a group email account. **Richard** will continue the work started last year to set this up and will plan to test the set-up with the group in the next meeting.
 - Grade 9 Exams – Daphne advised that the plan is to not have grade 9 exams, at least not large scale group exams in the school gym. There was a general discussion on the merits of such exams. There are some mixed opinions in the school community on how valuable exams are for preparing students for future exams in later grades, especially if they don't count towards a significant percentage of the overall grade. The consensus within the group was that going through even a "dry run" exercise with a large comprehensive test (i.e. exam) is beneficial for students, although the merits of doing so in large groups in the gymnasium vs. classroom was more of an open question.
 - Discussed the current DJ equipment that has been "left behind" with the significant reduction in participation in the DJ club. There are some students with some experience that are interested in the maintenance and use of this equipment.

3. Membership

- Reviewed the current membership and discussed potential adjustments to ensure proper representation from different groups as well as not turning away anyone that wants to volunteer. The proposed membership group adjustments that were discussed is below. **Daphne** will ask Verge House staff if any of them would like to participate on our SAC. The below membership adjustments would result in a slightly different composition than what is in our letter of agreement, so **the group** is requested to send any corrections to the Letter of Agreement to Daphne by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 24th.

- i. One member from the municipal unit that serves the school (non-voting)
- ii. One Community member
- iii. School Safety Resource Officer (non-voting)
- iv. Two Support Staff

- Elected the following executive and committee
 - i. Chair – Kim Benjamin
 - ii. Vice Chair – Stacey
 - iii. Secretary – Richard
 - iv. Discipline Committee: Richard, Patty and Kim

4. Other Approval of Previous Minutes (May 2017)

- ***Motion to approve the minutes as shared (Walker/MacMillan/carried)***

5. Business Arising from Minutes - none

6. Correspondence

- Letter to the Chair from the Nova Scotia Home and School Association. **Richard** will keep this on file so it is available to SAC members.

7. Junior Student Council Report - none

8. New Business

- Upcoming events

- i. Meet the Teacher/Academic Awards Night – September 20, 2017
- ii. Viking Voyage – September 21, 2017
- iii. Voluntary participation in the Terry Fox run with the students of Bridgewater Elementary School on September 22nd between 9-10 a.m. at the Kinsmen Field.

9. Principal's Report (added to the agenda)

- Daphne said the start of the school year has gone well, although it is very busy as everyone adjusts to the new set up. Everyone is stepping up to challenge, especially Nancy Varner, who has taken on a lot of extra duties that Sherry Hubley used to do, in addition to her own. It was agreed that the SAC would purchase some flowers to be presented as a thank you.
- The schedule change to an 8:30-2:30 school day has been adjustment as well, especially related to bus arrival and departure times and the adjusted staffing numbers related to the reduced overall student body have required some juggling of schedules to cover lunches, etc.
- With the school now being grades 7 to 9, the timing of the school dances has been changed to 6:30 to 9:30, and there will no longer be an officer from the Bridgewater Police attending
- The new flex time scheduling, with a class period on Friday afternoons that is available for students to catch up on homework or review work done seems to be going well. On Mondays, a new period for a goal setting exercise has been created. The kids have set goals and Diane has captured those, with 11 teachers scheduled to work with groups of kids on related goals. It was noted that the students should be asked for feedback on this process as it unfolds.
- It was noted that there are no Nova Scotia International Student program students at the school this year. **Daphne** is following up with the school board to understand if this is just a normal fluctuation in numbers or if there is a change.

10. Adjournment at 8:51 p.m.

Summary of Actions Items

Notes section	Action	Assigned	Due Date
2. Other	Reach out to the SAC of BES to see if they would like to meet to share ideas and experiences with transition.	Kim	Before next meeting
2. Other	Work with the BES SAC to try to improve the information within the school community on the grade transfer plan	All	During a joint meeting if one is held
2. Other	Share information when the grade transition plan starts	Daphne	During or before next meeting
2. Other	Share the latest copy of the “student success plan” with the SAC	Daphne	During or before next meeting
2. Other	Continue the work started last year to set up a Google groups account for shared file storage and a group email account and test it with the group in the next meeting.	Richard	During and before next meeting
3 Membership	Ask Verge House staff if any of them would like to participate on our SAC	Daphne	Before next meeting
3 Membership	Send any corrections to the Letter of Agreement to Daphne by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 24 ^h .	All	Before Sunday Sept 24 at 6:00 PM
6 Correspondence	File the newsletter from the Nova Scotia Home and School Association	Richard	Before next meeting
9 Principal’s Report	Get some flowers or other thank you for Nancy Varner	Daphne	Before next meeting
9 Principal’s Report	Follow up with the school board to understand if not having any NSISP students this year is just a normal fluctuation in numbers or if there is a change.	Daphne	Before next meeting