



## School Advisory Council

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Meeting Minutes

### **In Attendance**

Adair Roop – Chair

John Symonds - Parent

Angela Akpan – Parent

Denise Surette – Teacher

Bridgette Beaton – Teacher

Stephen Driscoll – Principal

### **Observer(s)**

### **Regrets**

Krystal Denny – Parent

Lynn Doyle – Vice-Principal

Darlene Symonds – Community Member

### **Minutes:**

#### **Adair:**

Announced new community member Darlene Symonds who unfortunately was not available to attend this meeting however should be at the next scheduled meeting.

#### **Follow up from last meeting:**

The accessible swing has arrived at the school and is just waiting to be installed. The work order request has been sent in and just waiting for the crew to show up and install it.

The materials for the Gaga-Ball pit have been purchased and Stephen has instructions for it, it is expected to be installed on Friday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 weather permitting. The game is going to be installed on the cement pad between the swings and the woods. The design of the Gaga Ball Pit allows for accessible use as well. \*Update-Installation is complete. Stephen also spoke with the lawyer for the school to ensure there are no concerns with this being installed from a liability perspective and there is none.

The Gaga ball pit and the swing area are in separate “Covid” areas to spread out the play areas. There is also to be a basketball net on the playground side.

The island area across from the front doors was going to have benches on it, however concerns about long term maintenance of the benches resulted in them being replaced with boulders

Update to the paving from previous meeting: The back area of the school will not be able to be paved at this time due to budget constraints however the drainage along the playground is being addressed so it will drain better and there will be less water accumulation in this area.

### **Principals Update:**

Paul Russell stopped by to see the traffic congestion around the school for himself and is thinking about having a town hall to discuss the issue with residents and look for resolution. There was a suggestion on Facebook about having the area on the road by the school sign designated as a drop off only area(5min max) so people could pull up, drop off their children without leaving their vehicle then driving away. This may be a consideration.

When the driveway is complete busses will be able to travel up the left hand side of the driveway avoiding the staff parking area, the lane will be labelled this way.

There has been an increase in the anxiety in the building with there being a couple of cases identified within schools, however people have been doing their best to stay focused.

Mobile testing units are going to be rolled out by Capital Health to support areas where rapid testing may be required in order to ensure there is no internal spread.

### **New Business:**

With the SAC being responsible for student achievement the question was raised regarding what support the school provides to parents/students if they need it?

If a child is being homeschooled then there is no support from the school, tutor programs are assessed on a case by case basis in the event a student cannot come to school for medical reasons. The program is virtual which although may not be ideal for all parents or children attempts are made to try and tailor the program to the respective needs of the family. Should parents have concerns or feel they are not receiving the support they require then they should reach out to HRCE.

Schools all have a plan B and plan C around the Pandemic and are much better prepared to handle it should there be a transition needed from the current learning plan.

There has been a change to the way the learning resources are being allocated to schools as they are now on site for 2-3 days at a time versus a day or two a month throughout the month. The benefit of them being in a school for more days at a time is they are more able to establish a plan and implement it before moving on to another school. The down side of this is they are not back in the school for up to 4 weeks after.

There appears to be a need for additional communication between the support aids and the families involved to ensure the work and plans being put in place are known by all.

Parent teacher interviews will be conducted in December via phone or video conference depending on the teacher. Parents should expect a higher amount of needs improvement

on the report cards because of the impact from March to the end of the last school year. Some teachers are communicating this to parents so they are prepared when they see it and expect most parents are already expecting this because of the way last year ended.

There will be no Holiday concert this year, and normally Santa would come visit the school to tell a story to all classes and have some milk and cookies. There still may be a modified version of this either virtually or Stephen will read the classes a story and possibly have a snack.

Will holiday music be played on the intercom? Where not all families celebrate holidays the same way this is not something normally done.

One class will be doing a special surprise breakfast which the teacher has done in the past and it has always been well received by the families in the class.

Parents have been asking if it is still ok to send presents in to the staff this year. Stephen has talked to the staff for their thoughts on this and there were no concerns raised.

Next meeting: Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021