



School Advisory Council

October 7th, 2020

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Adair Roop – Chair

Krystal Denny – Parent

John Symonds - Parent

Angela Akpan – Parent

Denise Surette – Teacher

Bridgette Beaton – Teacher

Lynn Doyle – Vice-Principal

Stephen Driscoll – Principal

Observer(s)

Regrets

Minutes:

Adair

Welcomed teacher Denise Surette back to the committee. We are still in need of a community member. John may have someone and will find out if they are still interested. Meetings for the committee will be held virtually at least until the end of the year, beyond that we will wait to see what the public health guidelines are.

Stephen:

Update on SAC funds from last year – There are \$4800 remaining from last year and there will be an additional \$5000 for this year. The Sensory path items approved from last year were not ordered. The suggestion is to use those funds to have something similar done outdoors once the paving project is complete, this will leave roughly \$8000.00 for other items this year. (See chart at bottom for summary)

The accessible swing has been approved, ordered and should be installed this year by HRC however still seems to be slow moving, Stephen has been talking to the local councillor (Paul Russell) to see if the municipality may be able to donate some money to assist and expedite the installation of the swing. More to come after the election.

The spider web has had the ropes off it for some time and is supposed to be removed from the playground, usually when these items are removed they are replaced with something else, this is another item to be discussed with Paul Russell after the election.

The playground does need to be enlarged and upgraded, there is a chance the municipality may be able to assist with that and Councillor Russell is sending an application to Stephen for playground funds. The committee was also asked if we would consider directing some of the SAC fund toward the playground as well (\$5000). This was agreed upon by the committee.

The book order for the school just went in as well to the Book Bureau the school had \$8000 to spend on books which was used however there are some items not available from the book bureau, once the order was complete the school was short by approximately \$1000 with the exact amount to be confirmed however the committee were asked if the funds could be used to cover the difference in the order. The committee agreed to this request as well.

Another suggestion for some of the money was to partially cover the cost of a GaGa ball pit (You Tube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO73MVAkhzw>). It is an octagonal "pen" where a form of dodgeball is played with a soft foam ball. The rubber base would cost roughly \$1000 and another \$800 for remaining materials, Stephen and a couple of volunteers could construct it and the school would cover any additional costs. The committee agreed on this as well.

There was also a question about more equipment for outdoor learning spaces, possibly picnic tables or other outdoor tables/seating.

Q: Can clear plastic dividers be added to desks to allow student the opportunity to take off their masks through the day?

A: The school is not allowed to put up plexi-glass at this time.

Students and staff have been doing very well with following rules around wearing their masks and following "Covid" rules around hand washing and sanitizing, all have adjusted quite well.

Q: Is there enough sanitizer and wipe supply for the school?

A: One kind of sanitizer is out everywhere however there is a local company making some so there should not be an issue and there was just a shipment of wipes received so there should not be an issue with them either.

Lost and found items have not been as high this year as most items are labelled so they are able to get them back to the students, Stephen has been sending out a video weekly showing the items in an effort to help people track down anything they are missing.

Class caps were discussed P-Gr.2 can have 20-22 students and Gr.3 and up can have 25-27 students. There is one grade two class over the cap by one student (2Brown), the class has 23 students. The choices to resolve this are:

1. Move one student in to a 2/3 split class which would then cause a domino effect and impact multiple students, their families as well as teachers.
2. Should the teacher be ok with teaching above the cap the SAC is asked if they have any concerns with this. SAC is in agreement with allowing the class to operate one student over capacity for the year.

Parking Lot:

There was a plan in place to pave the parking lot of the school in July however the plan did not get in until September. HRC contacted Stephen in early September to let him know the contractor was ready to go as long as he gave the go-ahead which he did as it has been a long waited upgrade for the school. They have been able to find on site temporary parking for all staff. The budget for the replacement of the parking lot was approved for more than the quote came in at so the school has been able to get some additional areas addressed as well. The back pathway and the pad in the quad area were not originally part of the project however will now be addressed, the sidewalk down the side of the driveway will be a full 4' wide sidewalk and the contractor is going to make an effort to address the drainage issues which have been causing ice issues in the winter.

Q: Where will the Accessible parking spaces be located?

A: Right now the plan is for some to be by the soccer field and he will also look to have some put in the lower parking area when they are ready to paint as was suggested on the call. There will be no parking around the flag pole area when the parking lot is complete. The access point near the front door of the school is also going to be larger than the one currently in place as well.

Placing a fence along the sidewalk on Cavalier Drive where the school sign is was discussed in an effort to deter people from cutting through the area, however it would have to be too long a fence and would not look very good either.

Q: Was there any thought on putting a traffic circle in with the paving project?

A: Other schools where they have these it can end up in the traffic issues being on school property around more students and can cause additional safety risks.

Q: What about fixing up the area around the path coming up from by the mailboxes on Cavalier Drive?

A: Stephen is going to discuss with the contractor if there is anything they can do in the area at the top where it is school property to address the area that becomes swampy whenever there is rain at least.

The area near the "purple" door where there is typically a lot of water pooling will also be improved as they will be putting a slight grade on the area to direct water away from the school toward the drain.

The parking lot is expected to be complete by the end of October providing everything stays on track and the painting will be completed after that when the weather permits. There has been an annual request from the school for the parking lot to be added as a capital project for the last number of years, this year the project has finally been approved.

Overall Learning Environment:

Overall everyone in the school appear to be in good spirits the children seem happy to be there and all are doing their best to follow the new rules for this year.

Q: *Are the kids any less active this year?*

A: Teachers are focusing more on social/mental learning where they can and getting them outside whenever they can.

Q: *How are the teachers doing?*

A: Pretty well, it is very rare to see an adult in the hall without their mask, one teacher has even been able to arrange their class so they can have a mask free zone with 6' of space around it so their students can get a break from their mask every once in a while through the day. Stephen has had feedback from new staff on the amount of compassion they see through the school in comparison to other schools they have worked in.

Q: *Are they using equipment in the gym?*

A: Not the same way they would in previous years however the gym teacher really enjoys getting the students outdoors as much as possible for classes.

Next meeting: Wednesday November 18th, 2020 @ 6pm.

SAC Funds 2020		
2019 SAC carry over	2020 SAC allotment	Total funds for 2020
\$4,800.00	\$5,000.00	\$9,800.00
Item	Estimated value	
Playground	\$5,000.00	
Book order	\$1,000.00	*To be confirmed
Outdoor sensory		
painting	\$2,000.00	
GaGa Ball pit	\$1,800.00	
2020 Total	\$9,800.00	