

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

December 5, 2022

6:00 pm

Tatamagouche Regional Academy

PRESENT: Jennifer MacDonald, Helen Blaikie, James Flynn, Reg Delorey, Eric MacKeen, Anne DeAdder, Laura Whitman, Melissa Rubin, Emily Esau, Olga Romanowsky

REGRETS: Charlotte Campbell, Kimberly Isnor-Reade, Erin Pope, Heidi Ayles

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Eric called the meeting to order and the Agenda was circulated. The motion to approve the Agenda was made first by James and second by Anne. The Minutes for the November SAC meeting had been circulated via email and as there were no errors or omissions identified, they were approved as circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1.) Letter to Regional Centre about technology needs: Letter was sent out and Eric received a phone call in response from Marilyn Patriquin, the Cobequid Family of Schools Supervisor. Please see "Correspondence" for the notes on this.
- 2.) Hat Policy: The new Hat Policy is now in place at TRA, with mixed reviews from staff. However, it stands as is, with hats being worn at the discretion of individual teachers.
- 3.) Library Funding: Request for funding from the SAC continues. A Motion to Approve the funding of \$500.00 for books and board games was made by Helen and seconded by James. The SAC will provide funding for this request.
- 4.) Typing: Jennifer reported that a keyboarding class is not available as a credit or course at present time.

CORRESPONDENCE: In a phone conversation with Marilyn Patriquin, Eric discussed the need for increased numbers of chrome books/technology devices for students at TRA. Ms. Patriquin was in agreement, and it is on the upper management's "list" of things to look into, but at this point, many schools are in need and there are no new devices on the horizon for TRA students at this time. We are encouraged to explore private donations or options outside the Regional Centre.

Also in the phone conversation with Ms. Patriquin, Eric discussed the bussing issues that we have heard about in previous meetings. Ms. Patriquin alluded to the possibility of TRA being able to work around the current "no extra bussing outside specific school hours" rule if we were able to find our own extra driver (retired driver, perhaps?) and bus. Jennifer will look into this possibility.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Please see attachment for details. In addition to the Report, Jennifer identified a request for SAC funding support for Writer/Author visits ("Writers in Schools Workshops"). An amount of \$75.00 for two visits (\$150.00 total) is requested and the SAC voted in favour of providing support, with the Motion moved first by James and second by Helen.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT: Emily presented the news for the Student Council. In November, there was a successful food drive for the school pantry program. A dance was cancelled due to high numbers of student absences from illness, but plans for a Christmas/December dance are underway. This will include an early dance for grades 4-6 followed by a regular dance for grades 7-12. A Winter Dress-Up Week is planned for December, as well as a Christmas Index toy drive and possibly a candy grams fundraiser. A Winter Carnival Week is in the works for sometime in January.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) Meet & Greet: After the SAC meeting, a formal Naming Ceremony of the gym, "Creighton Court" will take place with SAC members and family and friends of Mr. Ron Creighton, for whom the gym is named, in attendance.
- 2.) Communications to Parents: It was brought to Erin's attention from other parents that without the monthly newsletters going home with elementary students, some parents feel that communications between parents and TRA is lacking. Discussion about remedying this ensued, with the idea of a regularly scheduled mass email or website "information share" being possible, instead of the physical copy that used to go out. Jennifer is going to consider this and make a decision in the new year.
- 3.) Technology: Melissa volunteered to investigate grant possibilities for enhancing the IT at TRA (an aforementioned issue). She asked anyone to bring to her attention any ideas for local (or further abroad) foundations or organizations that she could approach.
- 4.) Rec Centre Usage Fee: James moved to allocate \$2000.00 of SAC funds for the use of the Rec Centre field, as has been done for the past several years. It was unanimously supported and Anne seconded the Motion.

PUBLIC RESPONSE: None

NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2023. This will be Charlotte's last monthly meeting in her role as VP, as Ms. Heather Kowenburg is returning..

ADJOURNMENT: James moved to adjourn the meeting.