

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

October 3, 2022

6:00pm

Tatamagouche Regional Academy

PRESENT: Jennifer MacDonald, Charlotte Campbell, Eric MacKeen, Anne DeAdder, Heidi Ayles, James Flynn, Melissa Rubin, Olga Romanowsky

REGRETS: Laura Whitman, Bryn Stewart, Helen Blaikie, Erin Pope, Kimberley Isnor-Reade, Reg Delorey, Orion Klausner

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Eric called the meeting to order and circulated the Agenda. It was reviewed and accepted, with a motion to approve made first by James and second by Anne. The Minutes for September's meeting had been circulated via email previous to the meeting. The Minutes were approved as circulated, with the first motion to approve made by James and again, seconded by Anne.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1.) "Creighton Court" letters are now hanging over the gym door and the accompanying plaque is in the works. James volunteered to ask Suzanne Pickard about the details and status of the photo and write-up for the plaque.
- 2.) Letter to the CCRCE and MLA has been sent. Eric received an email in response. Please see "Correspondence" regarding this.
- 3.) Mustang Newsletter was reported to have an estimated cost of \$375.00 to circulate to residents of Tatamagouche and River John.
- 4.) The SAC had a presence at TRA's "Meet and Greet" on September 21st. Book Fair was successful on that evening as well.
- 5.) SAC Letter of Agreement and By-Laws—no members had big changes to request after reviewing the Agreement and By-Laws, except the need to change the student representation to 2 students rather than 3.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Eric received an email from Marilyn Patriquin (CCRCE) in response to the letter from the SAC regarding the need to address the classroom population issues that TRA has experienced for the past two years and the date by which classroom configurations and subsequent staffing needs is chosen. Eric reported that Ms. Patriquin is willing to work with us on this matter and Jennifer is encouraged to continue sending to the CCRCE, student population numbers as they change over the year. Tom Taggard, MLA for Colchester was cc'd on the original letter and he has indicated that he intends to bring the Minister of Early Childhood and Education for a visit to TRA in the coming year.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Please see attached document. In addition to the Report presented, the Student Success Survey School Report was shared and SAC members are encouraged to review and bring comments/questions/concerns to the November meeting. The Reporting Code Summary was also distributed.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT: Jennifer reported in the absences of Bryn and Josie, that a Welcome Week of dress up days had occurred in September. A Halloween dance and dress up day are being planned for October. The Student Council is also finding resolution in difficulties with communications between the elementary and high school levels.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) Field trip funding. James reported being approached by several teachers wondering if the SAC was able to assist with funding some field trips. After discussion it was decided to hold off on a decision and we will re-visit at a later date. James will let the teachers know that they should investigate other funding options and where possible, perhaps the SAC could top up whatever funds might be needed once other avenues are exhausted.
- 2.) Sports fees online. Melissa brought up a confusion regarding payments for school sports fees on the TRA website. Heidi clarified that the old website continues to show up on a google search and that the new website is up and running, but just might not be at the top of the google search.
- 3.) Hat Policy. Students and staff continue to identify the need to address the current Hat Policy at TRA. A survey was sent to staff and SAC members for input on the issue. Jennifer stated that the final decision will be based on a majority vote by staff.
- 4.) Bussing. Bussing and a shortage of drivers continue to plague TRA. Off site bussing is only available between the times of 9:45-1:00, which makes classroom trips extremely difficult—especially for the O2 Program, which relies heavily on off-site workplace educational trips. SAC members want to read over the Bus Policy and Heidi volunteered to locate it and distribute it, if possible.
- 5.) Mascot Costume. TRA has a mustang mascot costume! It will be revealed to the students at the next student assembly. Plans for a “name the mustang” contest and deciding on a birthday are in the works.

PUBLIC RESPONSE: None

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 7, 2022

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion made by James to end the meeting.