

School Advisory Council Meeting—Tatamagouche Regional Academy
Zoom Format
October 13, 2020
6:30 pm

MINUTES

(Recorded by Olga Romanowsky)

Present: Brian Holmes, James Flynn, Jennifer MacDonald, Helen Blaikie, Ron Creighton, Laura Whitman, Kimberly Isnor-Reade, Caius MacDonald, Olga Romanowsky

Regrets: Jamie Cripps, Beth Langille

Brian called the meeting to order, Agenda shown and the Minutes reviewed and approved as circulated. Motion to move by James and seconded by Jennifer.

Business Arising from Minutes:

1.) Signage: Brian reported that there is now a yield sign for buses on the driveway leading up to the school where the bus loop connects, a stop sign for the parking lot side and a no parking sign in the drop off loop.

2.) Soccer Field Maintenance and Safety: Brian reached out to Operations about the soccer field prior to school closure last spring and they communicated to him that they were maintaining the field, but the issue of the safety of the soccer nets and the condition they are in was not thoroughly addressed. With school back in session, Brian stated that he will pursue this again.

3.) Grade 6 Voting in Student Council Elections: Student Councils are not permitted due to current restrictions from Covid-19, and this is predicted to remain for this year. Elections are in June, usually, so we can discuss this sooner to then and move this item ahead to March.

4.) School Trip Follow-up: A letter from the SAC to the CCRCE was needed last March in order to obtain proper documentation for students to submit insurance claims for trip refunds. The students and their families are currently waiting for their claims to be processed as there is an impasse between the Insurance Company and the Travel Company and a Class Action Lawsuit is getting underway.

Correspondence: None

Principal's Report: See attached for report.

Additionally:

Brian noted that our student population number is lower due to people opting to keep children home and it has been communicated to CCRCE to keep this in mind when deciding numbers of staff for next year, as this year is not a true depiction of TRA's usual student population.

Lyanna Barkhouse has offered to provide basketball programming for boys grades 7-12. However, a staff person is needed for support and has not been established as yet. Staff members will be approached to determine whether there is interest in being involved.

Laura asked for clarification on whether scenarios for school will be determined on a “school outbreak” of Covid-19 versus a “community outbreak”. Brian stated that it is not specifically clarified but that he has been told that a community outbreak would most likely precede a school outbreak, and direction will come from Public Health.

Brian reported that students have been adapting very well to the changes at school.

Jennifer MacDonald will be going on maternity leave with her replacement VP scheduled to begin on February 1st, 2021. (Congratulations Jennifer!!)

Some ground work was started for the Greenhouse Project but was shut down by CCRCE Operations due to lack of process protocol. Brian stated that he is currently working on getting this figured out.

And Brian thanked the SAC for supporting the purchasing of carts for high school teachers with SAC funds. The carts have been ordered should be arriving soon.

Student Council Report: As Brian noted, there is no elected Student Council this year due to the closure of school last spring. A Leadership Group composed of grade 12’s and a few staff members have stepped up to organize some activities.

New Business:

- 1.) **SAC membership:** Caius continues to be the Junior High rep and Beth Langille is representing the High School. A couple of grade 6’s have been approached to ask their parents about serving on the SAC as P-6 members and Brian is waiting to hear back from them.
- 2.) **Student Council:** due to the absence of an elected Student Council, an update on school activities from the student perspective could come from the Leadership Group, of which Beth Langille is part. For this SAC year, the “Student Council Report” will be referred to in the Minutes as “Leadership Group Report”.

Public Response: None

James motioned to adjourn and Laura seconded.

Next Meeting: 6:00 December 7th on Zoom. Brian will email the zoom meeting invitation to SAC members.