

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

April 15, 2024

6:00pm

Tatamagouche Regional Academy

PRESENT: Jennifer MacDonald, Heid Ayles, Eric MacKeen, Kimberly Isnor-Reade, James Flynn, Anne DeAdder, Erin Pope, Olga Romanowsky

REGRETS: Laura Whitman, Helen Blaikie, Caius MacDonald, Melissa Rubin

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Eric called the meeting to order and the Agenda was handed out. Olga added an item to New Business and the motion to approve the Agenda was made first by James and second by Anne. Minutes that had been emailed prior to the meeting were approved as read, with the motion carried by Erin and seconded by James.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- Under funding, there were two issues: (1) Teachers' requests for SAC funding for student programming are still in the process, as some orders require a wait time. Two new requests were identified—support for the 2\$ Lunch Program and purchasing paint for the soccer field. A motion to support both endeavours was made and passed, carried first by James and second by Olga; and (2) The SAC Innovation Fund has an imminent deadline, but Jennifer has a meeting planned with teachers to put ideas together and Eric will submit the final application. The proposed idea involves developing outdoor education spaces, such as trails in the woods and the playground.
- Donations continue to be generously given, with a new one identified by Heidi.
- The Newsletter continues to be well received and going well, with a distribution channel to the wider community offered through the Tri-County Ford events calendar email list.
- Water Fountain issues continue. Please see discussion under "Correspondence".

CORRESPONDENCE:

- In response to inquiring about getting the water fountains turned on at TRA, an email was received from the Province outlining that across the CCRCE, there are and will be no bubblers in the fountains. However, students are being seen drinking with their mouths from the bottled water filling stations, which is not ideal. The SAC agreed to advocate for the "old" water fountains to be available again for the students and will write a letter in support to the Property Services Manager, Timothy Hingley.
- Letter from Gary Adams went out asking for input from SAC members (among others) on the "Cell Phone Use" Policy. Eric will send out the link via email, through which members can participate (questionnaire). The deadline for submitting responses is May 3rd, 2024.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Please see attached file

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT: Student representative was absent, no report given.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Cell Phone Policy (please see Correspondence)

-Examinations/Evaluation practices at TRA- Olga brought up her concern that students in high school are not getting adequate opportunities to write/practice exam writing, after noting her grade 11 student wrote only 1 exam during the second semester final exam period. This seems contradictory to the provincial exam results that TRA grade 10 students (and it appears, from most schools in the CCRCE) achieved last year. The low scores warrant more practice and frequent exam writing, rather than less. Jennifer reported that exam writing is no longer a requirement for teachers to provide and that other forms of evaluation are encouraged, such as final projects. After discussion, the SAC was in agreement for a letter to be written to address this concern, as this trend disadvantages students to be prepared for post-secondary education and, indeed, for any circumstances in which licensing and qualifying exams are required—many, many different areas of employment and industry.

-SAC Membership- SAC membership needs to be set before the school year finishes.

PUBLIC RESPONSE: None

NEXT MEETING: May 13, 2024 ** Note the change to the 2nd Monday of the month, rather than the 1st.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned with the motion carried first by James, second by Anne.