

SAC MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 3, 2024
6:00 PM
TATAMAGOUCHE REGIONAL ACADEMY

PRESENT: Eric MacKeen, Jennifer MacDonald, Caius MacDonald, Helen Blaikie, James Flynn, Heidi Ayles, Laura Whitman, Anne DeAdder, Olga Romanowsky.

REGRETS: Melissa Rubin, Erin Pope

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Eric distributed the Agenda and called the meeting to order. James moved to approve the Agenda as read and the motion was carried, with Laura as second. The Minutes from May's meeting were distributed via email and with no errors nor omissions identified, Eric approved them as read, with James first to move the motion and Anne, second.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- Water Fountain: please see updated information under Correspondence
- Examinations/Evaluation: A summary of the meeting with CCRCE Coordinator of Assessment and Instruction, Kelly Brown, which occurred on May 27, 2024, was provided by Laura, Olga, Eric, James, Caius and Jennifer. In a nutshell, despite concerns brought up by the parents and student who were present at the meeting, things stand as they are: final exams (now termed "culminating assessments") are not required—and according to policy, never were—and the 1-4 Achievement Assessment Scale is being implemented at the High School level. Frustrations with policy dictating all, and having the feeling that the SAC cannot act in its advisory capacity in such matters was apparent in the ensuing discussion. Eric suggested getting a group of recently gradated students together in a focus group type of exercise, in order to investigate how students feel about their preparedness for post-secondary education, and what direction they would recommend for TRA. It was decided to readdress these issues in September, and perhaps communicate to the teaching staff the SAC's concerns.
- Survey: A Code of Conduct survey was distributed via email and SAC members were encouraged to fill it out.
- Funds Spent: There are SAC funds left in the budget for this school year. The gaga ball pit still needs some funding and a motion to provide the funding was carried, first by James and second by Laura.
- Lunch Program: Jennifer is still gathering the details about the lunch program for next year, but it appears to have a "pay what you can" model that parents will be required to fill out via an online ordering system. Clarity will be provided before the program begins in late October (hopefully).
- Application for the Innovation Fund: Still awaiting news on this.

CORRESPONDENCE:

-Eric received an email from Timothy Hingley, Celtic facility Manager, who responded to our concerns regarding unhygienic (mis)use of water fountains. He stated that it continues to be "policy" that the bubblers remain off and that cups are provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (for students who do not have personal water bottles). Cups have never been provided to TRA as he stated, so Jennifer is going to pursue this.

-A thank you card was shown, written by the grade 3-4 students for the SAC funding they received for recess balls.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: See separate file

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT: Caius reported on an upcoming meeting with Jennifer, about SC elections. The SC is hoping to fund a dunk tank for an activity, which will be postponed to next school year if they cannot get it done before the term finishes. The Junior Jig is coming up and although the SC is officially not running it, they have agreed to volunteer for it. Helen asked about the SC leading elementary school activities and discussion about how the SC finds this difficult to provide, due to schedule differences ensued. It was decided to look into this in September.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Eric reported that a **Regional School Advisory Council** is forming and he has been asked to be a member. He has an upcoming meeting on June 10, 2024 and a meeting in the fall for both him and Jennifer (for chairpersons and principals).

-The **Home and School Association** continues to be looked into and Annie Phillips and Meghan McCulloch, both parents of elementary students have shown interest. Annie has been connected with a contact from River Herbert, who has agreed to provide information/assistance on forming a Home and School Association at TRA. More to follow as this progresses.

PUBLIC RESPONSE: None

NEXT MEETING: September 9, 2024

ADJOURNMENT: James made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the SAC is finished for another year. Eric thanked the members for their service and dedication and Anne announced that she will be stepping down from her role as the SAC community member, and was thanked by Eric for her years of involvement.