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**School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
Meeting on Dec. 9, 2020

Attendance:

Principal - Dawn Langille  
Teacher Rep - Denise Palmer  
Teacher Rep - Theresa Nickerson  
Support Staff Rep - Juanita Beach  
Parent Rep - Rachael McBay  
Parent – Laurie Jay  
Community Rep - Wendy Matheson Withrow

1. Meeting called to order at 5:37 p.m.
2. Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda made by Denise, seconded by Theresa, and unanimously carried.
3. Minutes from last meeting (Nov. 2020) reviewed. Motion to approve minutes made by Juanita, seconded by Denise, and unanimously carried.
4. Business arising from the meeting minutes: None

5. SSP Update:

Dawn shared that no formal documentation of SSP is required this year due to CoViD-19. Lead teams have met - the Literacy Team twice and Math Team once. Well-being Team will meet on Monday, Dec. 14. The Well-Being goal will be similar to last year's. The Math goal will deal with number flexibility. The Literacy goal will focus on small group instruction, phonics, and getting students excited about writing. Glenn Thompson is working with staff on the relational approach and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy. Dawn will have more information as time goes on and as meetings of lead teams continue.

6. New Business

a) School Website -

Wendy pointed out the need to update the school website with current SAC membership information. She is worried about what someone without Facebook would do to get information about the SAC. She

### New Business cont'd

suggested that perhaps the CCRCE could provide support for Angela Hudson (Admin. Assistant) with updating website. Dawn indicated that this must be done by school. Dawn said that she will update SAC info on website. School information has been going home this year via Facebook and Swift K messages. Wendy pointed out that it is important for the public to know who SAC members are. Rachael said that it might be good to send a message on Facebook re: who to contact if one is interested in learning more about or being on the SAC. Wendy pointed out that the contact info of all SAC members should be listed on website. Dawn suggested that the option was there for the SAC to have it's own section on website. Rachael is open to maintaining that. We will soon need to invite support staff like EAs and Lunch monitors to join the SAC in the Support Staff position, as Juanita has accepted a position elsewhere and will no longer be employed at EDS in the new year. Wendy asked Dawn if she could check if SAC minutes need to be made public.

### b) SAC Budget:

Dawn shared that our budget is \$5000 plus \$1 per student. She discussed how many teacher laptops are not set up for online learning capabilities. The CCRCE does not pay to update teacher laptops, and any new laptops must come from school funds. The school has already ordered laptops to replace outdated ones, and Dawn proposed that our entire budget help pay for new teacher laptops. If there is any funds left over from purchasing laptops for teacher who need them, it go toward purchasing technology as determined by the school needs.

Rachael was supportive of this idea. She asked why the CCRCE does not pay for technology required by teaching staff. Wendy inquired why the NS Department of Education has not ensured that teachers have the technology necessary for teaching online. She was also supportive of purchasing laptops for teachers.

Wendy asked about the turn around time for getting laptops in teachers' hands. Dawn responded that they were ordered in September and they should be here by the end of December. Wendy asked if they need to be purchased through CCRCE or directly by school. Dawn explained that they must go through the board and that they are taking a long time to get them prepared for school use because so much technology has been purchased recently.

Wendy made a motion to approve the purchase of new teacher laptops and other technology using the entirety of our budget. Laurie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Wendy asked if there would be any cash injections to the budget coming up. Dawn said that we would not be receiving any more funds until the new budget in April. Wendy asked if money from the Health Board grant we received last Winter could be used to purchase more technology for the school. Dawn responded that it could not.

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New Business cont'd

c) New Grants

Dawn shared that the school applied for \$4000 in Health Promotion grant money to purchase two gagaball pits, a Cricut machine, and vinyl sheets. Of the \$4000 asked \$1500 was received. This money will be used to purchase the gagaball pits. A grant received last school year will now be used to purchase a Cricut and vinyl sheets.

Dawn also discussed the \$5000 Uplift grant we received from the Department of Health Promotion. It will go towards a student-led (grade 5) project to improve the well-being of students. Representatives of the program have visited the school to introduce the project, and grade 5 students have completed a survey to help identify well-being needs. They will be back to works with students to decide what can be done to address these needs.

d) Any Other Business:

Laurie explained that the supply of toys that students use for outdoor recess need to be replenished. Dawn and Theresa indicated that they know there is a need, but that they are so busy that it has not been a priority to purchase more. Rachael indicated that she would not mind purchasing the toys if she is given a list and a budget. Laurie said she would like to help out as well. Dawn and Theresa will work with Rachael and Laurie to work on this. Dawn will contact the school's Business Manager to see whether or not Rachael and Laurie can make purchases for the school. Denise and Rachael wondered if a call for donations would be possible. Dawn was worried about whether or not what was donated could be sanitized. Rachael suggested that perhaps that the need of new toys be spread by word of mouth. Dawn and Theresa indicated that donations of new toys that can be sanitized could be accepted.

Denise reported that virtual and phone Parent Teacher interviews went well for her and her teaching partner, despite worries that it would not. Dawn reported that she heard positive feedback from other teachers as well. Dawn and Theresa indicated that virtual/phone appointments may be added in the future, along with in-person interviews, to better respond to parent needs and to be more culturally responsive.

7. Input from the public:

No members of the public were present as meetings are closed sur to Covid-19.

8. Next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.



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*We are a school family. We take care of each other.*



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9. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.