

16 present

Call to order by Sandra Maclean

Norma Gould and Sandra Maclean resigned as co/chairs and parent representatives as per School Advisory Council Legislation.

Sandra put forward the election of Jo-ann Ellis as the new chair of the SAC, Danielle seconded. All in favour, motion carried

Jo-Anne put forward the Approval of agenda as the new chair. Items to new business were added

Sandee read the minutes from the last meeting and move the adoption of the minutes as there were no errors or omissions- Danielle Macleod seconded it motion carried

Special report - Michelle Thompson -school health nurse liaison gave a small presentation on her role. She is support for families and students that need assistance with physical and medical health within the school boards. She does a fair bit of work by help families with lice. Shelley MacLean let us know that she did confirm school wide lice checks are not allowed to be performed in the school as per board policy. To help us understand why she invited Michelle to further explain and offer tips. Research shows that head checks do not have any effect on lice outbreaks. The board policy is that if a student is suspected of having head lice they will be discreetly check (Shelley MacLean assures us she is a pro at head lice checks). It was asked that Shelley review with teachers and staff the importance of monitoring the students for a possible case of lice and recommending a check being done. (No student should ever feel embarrassed or singled out during the check).

Danielle and Jo-ann brought up the idea of buying a few kits for those parents that cannot afford the treatments. Danielle offered to contact the pharmacy about a possible donation of a couple of kits and the Concerned Parents Group will all purchase a couple of kits as well.

We want to remind parents that lice is not easy to get rid of so if you need any help please remember most of us have been through it at one time so we have lots of tips. Also Shelley MacLean and Michelle Thompson are there to help.

Old business

Bulletin board for Parent Communication- Shelley will put in a request to get a bulletin board in place in the next week or so.

Parent Communication Policy. Eryn Sinclair reported SAC subcommittee had rewritten the SRSB Parent Communication Policy into a language that was easier to understand but that was as far as it went. Stephanie Brushett suggested a flow chart be created on how to easily follow the Parent Communication Policy. Eryn said Rick has the document the policy committee put together. Shelley will forward that documents to the board and will request have the board develop the flow chart so all SRSB Schools can benefit.

Jo-Anne Ellis reported the CPAT calendars are going well. We are on target to match last year's sales which was our best year so far.

After School busing - there is still no discussion coming from Terry Doyle about finding a creative solution so all our WEC students can have access to the benefit of late run busing. Jim Austin is to ask Terry Doyle how much it would cost for the additional busing and also discover if the board was taking into consideration that the bus driver of one of the runs that has no after school busing, actually lives on the same road as some of the kids and is passing their homes.

School board member report- Jim Austin commented he was impressed by tonight's turnout - best turnout of all his schools.

Most of his items are already listed on the agenda so he reported that there were 12 new policy changes to happen in October at board. School reviews are happening and it is always a concern when these occur because of declining enrolment. The government gives the SRSB \$10,000 for each student and last year our board lost over 250 students (\$2.5 million less in budget) with declining yearly projections every year following. He expressed his concern over the review of boundaries taking place in the Port Hawkesbury area and particularly the Mulgrave School's review as they only have a student population in the 60's. The Mulgrave School is definitely part of the community and its closet would impact the community. Jim reported he was able to secure that Whycomomagh's and Dalbrae's review will not happen until 2018/2019. Whycomomagh is in good shape for the review as we are always maintaining or increasing our school population. He did say the SRSB had Whycomomagh on a list for designation as an essential school. But it was a policy that was rejected by the Nova Scotia school board.

Shelley MacLean handed out the SAC policy handbook and letter of agreement that we can take home, review and discuss, if needed, at the next meeting.

Volunteers and naming of new Council Members. Government SAC Legislation requires to name the members of the SAC for paperwork. The below names were put forward and approved.

Jo-Anne Ellis - parent
Brenda van Zutphen- parent
Fiona MacEachern - parent
Marie MacDonald - parent
Eryn Sinclair - staff
Donna MacInnis - staff
Rachael Campbell - community
Chloe Gillis - student
Candice Ehler - student

Please remember any and all parents, guardians, staff community members are encouraged to attend and participate in the SAC.

Shelley MacLean went over school improvements goals for the year. They centre around Math, Literacy, and School performance

New business

Family Studies not being offered this year because there is no teacher that currently has the training for it at WEC. Each year the school can choose between FST, Tech or Art. This year the grades 7s and 8s will take Tech and Art instead of having FST.

Phys Ed – Discussion was raised about the PEd curriculum. The PEd curriculum follows provincial guidelines which are available on the Teachers Association for Physical and Health Education website (taphe.ca).

Interest was expressed in exploring other extracurricular options for individual physical fitness activities as opposed to team sports. Eryn reported there is funding available through different grants and the health board. Stephanie also said the school board has resources and perhaps personnel that could help get the units started.

If parents have concerns or questions regarding their child's programming, they are invited to contact their child's teacher or Shelley MacLean.

Sitting - The benefits of having the student getting up and moving around more while learning and the dangers of sitting to long on people health was next.

There is a lot of new research on the dangers of sitting beyond 30 minutes without getting up to move around for at least 1 minute. And there is also a lot of research about the benefits having kids learn while walking, riding a stationary bike or doing some other form of active movement. Being more active actually increases student learning, especially in those students that cope with learning disabilities or behavioural issues. Different ideas to get our kids up and more active while they learn were put forward. Shelley thought this would be a great school performance goal. She is going to bring it back to the staff.

Next was talk around fundraising.

Sandee and Jo-ann brought up selling Cheese - sell around Christmas

Sandee suggested Puzzles - have a picture of our choosing put on a 500 piece puzzle and take pre-orders

Danielle suggest a Cookbook - in springtime. Donation of recipes with traditional Cape Breton recipes.

Stephanie suggested a Bottle drive - We have had drives in the past and it is a good idea but it needs to be approached differently- Stephanie suggested each kid bring in half a bag. Brenda vanZutphen told of the great success they have in sport Hood with bottle collection because they have a location where they can be dropped off year round.

In-lieu of fundraising - Parent Donation slip - The option for parents to give a one-time donation to cover their yearly share of school

fundraising OR a smaller donation to cover a portion of the fundraising goal. CPAT offered to issue charitable tax receipts for these monetary donations on behalf of the school. Sandee will

draw up a draft document to present at the next meeting.

A motion to have cheese as the December fundraiser was put forward and approved.
Marie MacDonald is to contact Saputo to get the fundraising info.

The next meeting is [October 19, 7pm](#)

Meeting adjourned by Marie MacDonald