

# School Advisory Council Meeting Summary

**Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2024, 6:30 pm**

**Bicentennial Library (or via google meet)**

**Google Meeting info:**

<https://meet.google.com/juf-nvqd-tbp>

Or dial: (US) +1 252-692-0184 PIN: 498 545 692#

In attendance:

- Principal Trevor McGowan
- Ayumi (Student rep)
- Ben (Student rep)
- Brianne Hunsley
- Bryony McStay
- Ed Keeble
- Pastor Emmanuel Mutale
- Helen Plowman
- Sasha Webber

## Meeting Overview

The School Advisory Council met with eight members present, achieving quorum. Bryony McStay was approved as chair and Ed Keeble as secretary. The council currently consists of:

- **Parent/Guardian Representatives:** Brianne, Bryony, Ed, and Helen
- **Student Representatives:** Ayumi and Ben
- **Staff Representative:** Sasha Webber
- **Community Member:** Pastor Emmanuel Mutale

## Principal's Report

### School Programs

- Lunch program successfully launched today, serving 200 meals to students from PP-9
- First school in the province to include grade 9 students in the program
- Plans to expand to include breakfast program once lunch program is running smoothly
- President's Choice has donated \$12k to the school food program
- Brianne notes that we have also received a \$1k grant from Nourish Nova Scotia

- We are in serious need of lunch monitors (interested parties can apply via website or contact Principal McGowan directly by phone)

## Facility Updates

- New boilers installed
- Electrical system upgraded
- Gym renovation progressing on schedule (completion expected mid-November)
  - In addition to the new floor, this will include paint, a new emblem, equipment, and air conditioning
- Heat pump installation was considered but exceeded the available budget by \$1M, so funding was redirected to the gym renovation

## School Population & Capacity

- Currently 435 students
- Expecting significant growth due to 15,000 new residents expected in Dartmouth over the next few years
- No classes are currently over cap
- School has capacity to expand to include more students
- Bicentennial enjoys an above-average number of specialists and support staff

## Administrative Updates

- New cell phone policy showing positive results
- Students and teachers report more productive, engaging environment (as confirmed by the students and teacher in attendance)
- Bryony notes that a side effect of students no longer carrying phones is they have lost a key organizing tool in that they are unable to tell time (due to a lack of clocks around the school) and are lacking a day planner/task organizer
  - Idea is put forward to include a day planner/agenda in the school supply budget for next year and to install additional clocks around the school
  - Principal McGowan notes that we may be able to ask that agendas be included as part of a new school photo vendor contract

## SAC Operations & Funding

### Conference & Governance

- Recent provincial SAC conference attended by all Nova Scotia schools
- Focus was on the role of a SAC, governance, composition, etc
- Discussed food program implementation:
  - 10 organizations involved in the rollout
  - focus is on promoting healthy eating habits across the province
- Innovation fund discussed:

- 25 grants of \$10k each were made available last year
- Deadline for application for next years fund is Jan/Feb 2025
- More information can be found here: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/SAC#001>
- List of funded projects from last year:  
[https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/sac\\_innovation\\_fund\\_successfulprojects\\_en.pdf](https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/sac_innovation_fund_successfulprojects_en.pdf)

## Financial Decisions

- Previous year's SAC funds were allocated to school supplies and binders
- Total supply cost kept to under \$9k through bulk purchasing
- SAC contributed \$5,400 to supplies
- SAC funding decisions for this year will need to be made by our December 9th meeting

## Future Considerations

- Discussion of adding student agendas and classroom clocks
- School photo company contract up for renegotiation
- Regular meetings planned between Principal and student representatives

## Next Steps

- Members encouraged to gather community input on school needs
- If anyone knows someone who might be interested in being a lunch monitor, please ask them to contact Principal McGowan directly
- If anyone is interested in applying for an Innovation Grant, please reach out to the SAC chair ([hrce-sac-bic@gnspes.ca](mailto:hrce-sac-bic@gnspes.ca))
- Student reports to be included alongside the Principal's report in future meetings
- Bylaws to be updated and posted to website
- Monday evening meetings approved for future dates
- Next meeting scheduled for November 18th at 6:30 PM