

SAC Minutes April 29th 2024

Present: Bethany Martin, Susan Baird, Nadine Palmizi, Lynn Myers, Ron Muller, Jennifer MacDonald, Jennipher MacCormack, Angie Harvie, Carolyn Keber

Present Via Zoom: Jennifer MacIntyre, Debbie Christiano, Perla MacLeod

Sent Regrets: Lewis MacDonald, Tammy MacSween

Meeting started at 6:25pm

Lynn Myers opened with a land acknowledgement

Approval of the minutes from Feb 26th, 2024 - Approved by Jennipher MacCormack

Grade Configuration

Very few Grade Primaries registered for Sept 2024 which will result in combined grades. Ron showed the scenario that HR sent us then he showed the one he thinks will work much better.. Unfortunately we will have 30 students in grade 6 but this would be better than leaving a few Grade 6's to be combined with Grade 5 to follow a Grade 5 schedule. That would not be an ideal situation.

Jenn MD asked about the needs in the Grade 6 class for next year and Ron assured the SAC that the needs are actually few in that grade and leaving the class at 30 is a doable option. The only thing is that we will have an issue if another student registers. We will deal with that as it happens/if it happens.

The current Gr 3 is very complex and thus it may be good to separate them. This separation will also make better use of our resources. The $\frac{3}{4}$ class will mean that the Grade 3 students will have more Art and be introduced to French a year earlier. The $\frac{3}{4}$ teachers are going to have more time as well to do academic support and support other teachers and our students. It really opens up more flexibility options for scheduling. It was reiterated that there is no chance for us to ever receive another teacher as we would need 30 more students to register and this is very unlikely to happen. Jennifer MD also asked about how the Grade P's may feel walking into a class with Gr 1's sharing the same space but Ron stated that with only 7 Grade P's we would never be able to have a Primary only class. It was also noted that the grade configuration he showed the SAC will make much better use of our TA's

The actual physical space to accommodate the larger class sizes was also addressed and Ron assured that we could accommodate larger classes by moving around to other spaces within the school.

Ron also mentioned that he was worried we would lose a High School teacher as there was a possibility that we were going to. He had to look at the courses being offered and we are following the plan that Rankin does, offering Physics 11 and 12 one year and Chemistry 11 and 12 the following year. This will help with us retaining our current staffing numbers in High School.

A question was asked about our Elementary teachers and which ones are permanent or term. It was explained that the Elementary positions are permanent but the teachers currently in them are only term teachers.

Ron asked the SAC if the grade configuration as presented with 30 grade 6's is acceptable as after many hours of trying to figure out different scenarios, what he presented was the most ideal option.

Susan B put forth a motion that the SAC approve the plan as presented. After some discussion, the plan was approved as presented.

Learning Center

Lynn mentioned that the SAC sent an email to Lynn Crawford and Steve MacDougall (Central office) about only having a 50% Learning Center here at BA and our need for a full time Learning Center. She was told that no decision has been made yet.

Reading Recovery/ESL

Ron also mentioned that he inquired about the Reading Recovery program. No updates to share. Jennifer MD asked about our ESL and Ron assured her that we have been lucky as we do have an ESL teacher that visits BA twice a cycle.

Violence in Schools

Lynn Mentioned that Violence in Schools is not just about student violence but violence against teachers as well. Ron mentioned that it is a topic that is on his agenda for his Principal Meeting tomorrow so it is a topic that will be discussed. We have the Respectful Workplace Policy that we follow so this helps us navigate this piece. He will have more info after his Principal Meeting.

Crosswalk

Jennifer MD mentioned that the Municipality cannot identify the safe pathway for the crosswalk and will not accept any liability for this. The Warden suggested that there be a crosswalk down Fownes Drive then across the driveway. It is unfortunate that Lewis is not here to discuss this. A meeting with Steve MacDonald would need to be done as well. There are many things that have to be kept in mind when putting this crosswalk in, such as field of view and will drivers be able to see the students in crosswalks. Perla mentioned that there is a meeting in the works with Susan Kelley and Transportation are going to meet with the Municipality. It is going to go to Council. Steve MacDonald needs to have input with this.

Clearing Driveway

Jennifer MD assured the SAC that clearing the brush alongside the rest of the driveway entering the school is on the County's list to finish.

Water

Jenn MD assured us that the results of the recent water tests done at BA show that everything is ok, all levels are acceptable.

Parking

We are still having issues with parents parking in the fire lane at the end of the day which adds to the congestion. Staff have been parking farther back in the lot to allow more space for parents to park while picking up their students. Ron suggested that maybe the P-5 could be dismissed first before the rest of the school to have these kids get to their parents picking them up more safely. Jennifer MD asked about the upper parking lot and Lynn mentioned that the info from Susan K stated it's not ours and Jennifer MD has information that shows that it is, so we will have to look into this. The problem with the upper parking lot is that it is dangerous for the kids to cross to get there. We also need to figure out the flow of traffic in our lot and maybe have the arrows repainted. Perla asked if we could let the buses leave first then dismiss the other students but this is not really a practical solution. Now that the staff is parking farther to the back of the parking lot, the congestion issue seems to have fixed itself. We will continue to monitor this situation. Hopefully when we repaint the fire lane and flow of traffic arrows etc in the parking lot, this will help with the traffic flow issue. What worked in the past with letting the buses go first, then pick ups then walkers seemed to work, so we may have to consider this if needed. Pylons were used in the parking lot/fire lanes but didn't work as intended..

Crosswalk guards are under the jurisdiction of the CBRM Police, and they hire crosswalk guards for schools in the CBVRCE that require them. SAC is wondering if there is something available to us in Baddeck? The thought is that this does not fall under the jurisdiction of the RCMP so we really do not have help with this issue. Unfortunately at Baddeck Academy we have no Lunch/Bus/Grounds person to assist. It was noted that we will have to discuss this with Steve MacDonald as well.

Student Survey

As of April 24th - 92% of students have completed this survey. The information from this survey helps to guide our SSP and our well being goal.

Cell Phones in School Survey

We here at BA aren't as militant as other schools may be. Some teachers at BA allow cellphone use in the classrooms as a teaching device and students are pretty good at using their cell

phones in the approved areas. The kids here at BA are very respectful when it comes to cell phone use which in turn allows us to have a lot of flexibility. We clearly discuss the school code of conduct each Sept with the students which clearly outlines our expectations for student cell phone use.

Vaping

Our Code of Conduct was outlined to the students at the beginning of the year and they are well aware of the consequences of vaping in the school. We cannot police what happens at lunch time, but we do have a duty to report if we feel that safety is a concern and it endangers the well being of others. We do have the right to search school bags if we feel we need to when the safety of students or others are a concern. We have a very low incident of smoking and vaping in our building.

Geese

The anti-geese flags that we purchased at Amazon seem to be working as the geese are staying off of the property. We spent \$400 on them and it has proved to be money well spent. This will also free up a lot of Louie's time that he spends on cleaning the field. It was agreed that we are very lucky to have Louie in our school as he goes over and above by helping with the breakfast program etc.

Innovation Fund

Lynn applied for this grant and put in for someone to come to the school to run a program on the field. This \$ could be used for equipment plus an honorarium for the person providing the programming. We haven't heard back yet if we received anything.

Ron mentioned that Chris Woodford has given some money towards active initiatives as well.

Swing Set

Lynn mentioned that she was speaking to Mary Lou Andrea and she said would pay the remainder owing towards the swing set for the middle school students. She has ordered it. We are now going to have to look for someone to install it. Jennifer MD says that counselors have district funds that we may be able to get for this, so we should explore that option.

Lunch Program

Jennipher MC mentioned that we are definitely feeding hungry bellies. They are still trying to tweak it to make it more effective and now that the Baddeck Coop has come on board we really try to purchase locally. Volunteers are definitely needed as we could always use more. The Elementary teachers really have a great handle on what students are needing lunch assistance so the elementary teachers are really good to feed the need. The Middle school/high students

are another issue. We are hoping that the clear door fridge with a note telling them that they are free to take something if needed is helping. If the fridge runs out, the Admin can access more. The students here really do not feel there is a stigma with accessing food. The way the parents group pkg the food makes it less stigmatic. Jenn MD mentioned that with the new lunch initiative being put in effect - we need to make sure that we are not in year 4 of the roll out. We need to be done in year 1. Jennipher MC mentioned that we need to do some work to make sure the cafeteria is ready to be up and running. Ron mentioned that rumor is the P-5 schools will be ready in Oct. to roll out the provincial lunch initiative and we hope that they will not leave the 6-12's out. Jenn MD and Jennipher mentioned that they have been following what is being done in PEI so it would be something that could be used here possibly. We really need the SAC to advocate that BA is not forgotten about. We average 32 students a day now requiring lunch. The muffins really seem to be a hit and they are more substantial than the high carb snacks. The students really like the sub, muffins and egg sandwiches. We are having a spaghetti dinner this Wed May 1st and we are starting to send leftovers with needy families on the weekend.

Heat Ups

A note went home to parents regarding lunch heat ups. Many schools have gotten rid of microwaves as they pose an OHS concern - who cleans it etc.

Some students are arriving with food that requires long heat up times and no dishes/cutlery with which to eat their lunch. We sent an alert to ask parents to cook the food at home as teachers have no problem with warming the food back up. We understand that parents are busy but we cannot spend an enormous amount of time warming up food. JennMD said that maybe we can give out thermoses as a gift that we can give the students so they can keep their food warm. We also need to remember that this issue regarding heat ups and microwaves usage can be a OHS hazard so we need to be careful we do not lose them for good. FB posts can result in us losing our microwaves. Since the alert came out, it seems to have improved greatly in the elementary grades.

Letter of Agreement

We usually read the Letter of Agreement in June. Members were asked to read this over beforehand in preparation for this meeting. Ron mentioned that we have to look at our members as there are some people on the SAC that have never been here. Members are actually only supposed to serve for 2 years but members often end up staying on way longer than the two years. We often have an issue with having a community member on our SAC that attends regularly. Students really do not need to be present only if they have issues to bring up. Lynn mentioned that she will send out an email with the **motion** to accept the :Letter of Agreement as by the end of the meeting our members joining us on-line were no longer able to vote. We need to have them signed as they have to be sent to the Regional Centre by June.

Awards Night etc

Awards night is in the planning process. Jennipher would like to know when Fun Day will be happening so they can plan. The PE 12 class, Angie's students as well as some community members could come to help run this elementary fun day.

Ron motioned for Meeting to adjourn at 8:10pm

