



## School Advisory Council Annual Report – June 2021

School	Halifax West High School
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Please list SAC members including names, membership type (i.e., parent, community member, staff), and role (i.e., Chair, Vice Chair).

Gregory MacKinnon – Principal  
John Nisbet - Community Member (Chair)  
Jen Fougere - Staff  
Craig Poirier - Parent (Vice Chair)  
Leslie Phillmore - Parent  
Nancie de la Chevotière - Staff  
Debbie MacKinnon - Parent  
Marwa Kuri - Parent  
Sastry Vankamamidi - Community Member  
Sheetal Ajay - Community Member  
Leah Bacich - Staff Member  
Terry Ryan - Staff  
Ethan Beck - Student  
Michelle Nguyen - Student  
Aisha Sulyman - Student

Please describe a summary of work undertaken by the SAC to improve student achievement and school performance.

The SAC for Halifax West High School met on seven occasions this year to continually support the SSP goals and to discuss and support other initiatives at the school. Every meeting included a principal’s report updating the SAC from an administrative point of view as well as a report from the students to share their experiences in the school. In addition, the SAC always sought input from the teacher and community members on any issues or concerns. Covid-19 protocols and safety were also a regular part of the discussion.

Students were regularly able to discuss their initiatives and experiences with the SAC to help other members understand what their experiences were like at the school, they gave regular updates about activities including the wellness conference, Head for the Cure, student contributions to the Parkview News, Orange Shirt Day, Holiday Fest, and school engagement activities. SAC members regularly asked the students how the student body was doing, how they were managing with COVID Protocols in place and reminded them to bring forth any concerns with which the SAC can help. Staff were similarly asked about staff wellness and if any assistance was needed to help staff support students. This is how the idea for the webcams

was introduced. Staff wanted to be prepared in case the school was closed and using webcams on teacher desktops while students had chromebooks was an idea that was suggested to help prepare students, in particular EAL students who had less access/familiarity with technology.

SSP Goal 1: To improve students' achievement through the use of instructional practices that are informed by knowledge of students' diverse backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and learning styles.

- As an SAC, we discussed regularly PD plans for staff and what we're doing in the school to help support students. SAC members actively engaged in conversations about what was being done, how staff felt, how students were doing and how they could support.
- After discussion about our EAL population and how many struggled last year because they were not as familiar with technology there was a discussion about preparing them ahead of time. Webcams were part of this discussion as it would enable EAL teachers to hold practice Google Meets session so all the students knew how to join and participate virtually.
- We shared our ongoing professional development on Anti-Black racism and Culturally Relevant Pedagogy. The goal of this PD was to provide more knowledge of our diverse community of Black students and to create better strategies to support their wellness and academic success.

SSP Goal 2: To improve student achievement through planning and using formative and summative assessment strategies.

- The SAC recognized from the start of the year that they may be able to support this goal through purchasing items to facilitate online learning, based on experiences from last year. An additional meeting was held on November 17 following the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to discuss spending priorities and how the SAC could help. As a result, several items were purchased to support online learning.
- The SAC was informed about extra math help that was put in place for students of African and Indigenous descent. These students had access to teachers and to snacks during lunch hour to help improve their academic success in math 10.
- The SAC discussed how the use of mimio boards has been invaluable in the math department to support formative assessment. The idea was brought up to try it in an English language arts class as well to see if it was beneficial in that subject area. A mimio board was purchased and an English teacher used it to support students with editing, sharing ideas, learning new writing techniques and to create notes for students who were absent. There was a discussion that if this was successful it could be expanded.
- The SAC learned about a tablet with a relatively low cost that could be used in conjunction with a mimio board and that was purchased for the math department. This increased the utility of the mimio to support formative assessment in the classroom.

SSP Goal 3: To improve student well-being.

- This was a regular topic of conversation each meeting to ensure that student representatives had the opportunity to share with SAC members how they were doing

and what could be done to support. COVID-19 protocols changed the student experience this year, but SAC members were consistently supportive of the students to see how they were coping and if anything more could be done to improve their experience.

- The SAC was informed about some school wide initiatives to help support student wide well-being. Staff shared videos and collected feedback from students about the barriers they face in school. Administration reviewed the feedback from students.
- We discussed our work with African Nova Scotian students. A group of students worked with our African Nova Scotian Student Support worker Calvin Scott and staff member Nancie de la Chevotière to share their concerns and experiences at Halifax West. This led to further sessions and the opportunity to film some of the students to share with staff during our professional development sessions. This led to the development of extra supports/times to meet with our African Nova Scotian students.

Please list any significant milestones and success stories that the SAC would like to highlight.

- Regular, engaged conversation about student experiences and well-being in the school.
- Regular, engaged conversation about staff experiences and well-being in the school.
- Regular updates and discussion about PD progress and efforts focused on Anti-Black Racism. The videos made by our African Nova Scotian students on their experiences were particularly important as were the staff efforts to create visual representation to their commitment to this work (Periodic table of Black excellence, wall of pledges against racism, teacher actionable steps to combat racism)
- Purchases of items to help support formative assessment and distance learning.

Please describe any related sub-committee work undertaken by SAC members (e.g., School Options Committee).

- A sub-committee was established as a selection committee for a new school photographer, RFPs were submitted, and presentations were made to this sub-committee. Adams photography were the successful applicants.

### **Statements of Revenues and Expenditures:**

Expenditures supporting the school improvement plan (e.g., providing resources to support math and literacy instruction).

- Halifax West SAC approved money to be spent on items to help support formative assessment and distance teaching and learning. Mimio pads, tablet and webcams were purchased to provide to teachers to support learning in their classes and via google meets. \$4,560.01 was used of our total \$6517.00.

Expenditures supporting policy development and implementation (e.g., supporting and promoting new policies).

N/A
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Expenditures covering operational expenses; up to 20 per cent of provincial SAC funding may be used as operational expenses, if necessary, to encourage and support member participation).
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N/A
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Please return to School Administration Supervisor by Monday, June 21, 2021. Thank you.