

Halifax West High School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 5th @6:00pm (Virtual meeting via zoom)

In attendance:

- Brad McGowan, Principal
- Glen MacDuff, Vice-Principal
- John Nisbet, SAC Chair
- Julie Gibson, Parent representative
- Sheetal Ajay, Parent representative
- Nancie de la Chevotière, Staff representative
- Jennifer Fougere, Staff representative
- Aisha Sulyman, Student Government Co-President
- Desmond Eboigbe, Student Government Co-President

Regrets: Craig Poirer, Parent representative

Leah Bacich, Staff representative

1. Agenda approved.

2. **Discussion of a plan to elect officers:** Chair, Vice-Chair & Secretary. This is put on hold until we release an expression of interest to the school community for more members. A community expression of interest will be posted on the school website by Glen MacDuff, a staff expression of interest will be sent out by Brad McGowan via email and a student expression of interest will be posted on the Grade level Google classrooms by Jennifer Fougere. Additionally, the expression of interest will be mentioned by Brad McGowan in his Sunday voice messages to the community. A discussion was held on how to assure that our SAC is representative of the community and a need to have more diverse representation. As suggested by Student reps, the school will reach out to members of the community who can communicate this information with more people. For example, the YMCA and other representatives. Once we do this, we hope to hold elections.

3. **2021-2022 Student Government Co-Presidents Aisha and Desmond gave their September report.** They spoke of a variety of events and initiatives led by Student Government and other groups in the school including Welcome week, HRCE Pink Day, Orange Shirt Day and Truth & Reconciliation week and upcoming October events such as Virtual Bingo, Oktoberfest. The SAC Chair asked the students what they felt the student mood is at this time. They expressed some concern with the level of stress, some linked to COVID and loss of activities and sports but also worry for their teachers who have had to take on teaching an extra course and therefore do not have time for extra help or other supports for students.

4. **HWHS Principal Brad McGowan gave the principal's report in which he addressed the following:**

- Heightened COVID protocols currently in effect at HWHS as a result of case numbers. These protocols include an attempt to reduce student movement, maintain distance, sanitizing and sign out sheets in any classrooms that students use at lunch. Students are also only permitted in the building beginning at 9am and are told to proceed directly

to their first period class. Students are encouraged to eat off site at lunch, but may be in the cafeteria if needed. The school is following direction from Public Health in this matter. The SAC Chair asked if the school knows numbers on how many students and staff are vaccinated. Brad indicated that he does not have the numbers but feels confident that most staff are vaccinated as well as students. The school is working with Public Health to make all communication and resources more accessible to students and families in different languages.

- Tik tok challenges - have been an issue at the school and some vandalism was done. Some students were disciplined for this.
- The September Professional Development Days for staff were based on wellness and inclusion. This theme will continue for future PD sessions this year.
- Teachers sent home email communications to families for “virtual curriculum night”.
- Truth & Reconciliation week was observed at Halifax West last week, including Orange Shirt Day on Sept 29. Visuals, facts, videos and lessons were shared with teachers and students. October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month and this is being recognized at Halifax West as well.
- There are two French Language Arts 10 classes that are over cap and are at 32 each. This was done with written permission from the teacher, Robert de la Chevotière who graciously accepted this for this year.
- There will be a COVID vaccine clinic at Halifax West from 2:00-3:30 on Thursday, October 7th.
- Brad sends out a Principal's message to the school community by phone messenger every Sunday evening.
- Brad feels that he has been welcomed at Halifax West and is proud to be Principal of this school.
- Julie Gibson asked if the COVID measures currently in place are temporary and Brad said that is the hope.
- Brad also mentioned that funds collected from students for 'Student Life packages' may need to be returned, this will depend on the COVID situation as if COVID prevents events from happening, students will not be able to partake in these events. More to come on this.
- Brad mentioned that there is a small amount of money (\$400) from last year to be spent and is welcoming suggestions from the SAC on where this money should be spent.

5. **Craig Poirier had sent along some questions via email** pertaining to broken washroom stall doors, crosswalks to be repainted and potholes in parking lot. Brad said that this will be investigated.

6. **The next meeting of the SAC** will be on Tuesday, November 9th @ 6pm via zoom.

7. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:08pm.