

## Student Advisory Council

*Meeting minutes – May 30<sup>th</sup> 2023*

### **Attendance:**

Craig Poirier, Parent  
Nancie de la Chevotiere, Teacher  
Lee Anne Amaral, Principal  
Sarah Miles, Vice Principal  
Leah Bacich, Teacher  
Colleen Rollings, Parent  
Karen Williams, Vice Principal  
Allyza Atieniza, Student Government  
Shabad Kaur, Student Government  
Sehej Bhasin, Grade 10 Rep  
Tanya Skelhorn, Teacher  
Julie Gibson, Parent and Chair  
Shelley Drake, Support Staff  
Chloe Carabbacan, Student Government Co-President  
Rebekah Hart, Student Government Co-President  
Leslie Phillmore, Parent  
Tasnima Fabiha, Grade 11 Rep  
Brea Roe, Grade 12 Rep

### **Regrets:**

Jen Fougere, Teacher  
Natasha Williams, Parent  
John Nisbet, Community Member (due to support of current work action)  
Allison Lawlor, Parent  
Sheetal Ajay, Parent

- 1. Call to Order:** At 6:00pm by Lee Anne Amaral
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Approved by Tanya Skelhorn and Seconded by Criag Poirier
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Approved by Craig Poirier and Seconded by Brea Roe
- 4. Business arising from minutes:** No business arising
- 5. Principal's Report**

### Principal's Report

Current Enrollment: 1526 students (532 Grade 10, 503 Grade 11, 481 Grade 12)

Overnight Trips: Band Trip – May 31 – June 4 Ottawa/Montreal

Girls Softball – June 9 -10 Canning

## Staffing

Halifax West will have 4 full time resource teachers (up from 3.5 in 2022-23 school year). Halifax West will also have 4 full time guidance counselors (up from 3.5 in 2022-23 school year). As well, Halifax West will have 4 full time vice principals (up from 3 in the 2022-23 school year)

Posted 26 positions round 1 – all jobs were filled

We had one person post out during round 1 and that position will be filled during round 2

Tanya Skelhorn is our acting VP next year and her Science Department head position will be filled once interviews are conducted, which are taking place this Friday.

## Grade 9 Transition Meeting

Supervisor, admin, teacher, parents, SAC member (Julie Gibson) and students met last week to start the transition of the grade 8's. We will be hosting Grade 8 information night for parents and students on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Grade 10 Orientation

We will be having a grade 10 orientation for all incoming grade 10's on June 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a scavenger hunt, staff introduction and prizes for students. This is a student only event and will take place in the evening.

## Awards

Our Indigenous Student Leaders have won the Lieutenant Governors Respectful Citizenship Award. They were presented the award on May 24<sup>th</sup> by the Lieutenant Governor.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> Delmore Buddy Daye Institute will be hosting a presentation of this years awards. Halifax West, with the hard work of Nancie had multiple winners;

Challenge 1: Breaking News!

Top Entry

Adora, Lyndel, Emmanuel, Kenton, Hunter

Teacher: Nancie De la Chevotiere

Challenge 3: Notable Nova Scotians

Top Entry

Trisha Magbanua

Teacher: Nancie De la Chevotiere

Challenge 5: A Day in the Life

Honourable Mention

Tessa Cornect-Hersey

Teacher: Nancie De la Chevotiere

Challenge 6: Express Yourself!

Top Entry  
Maia Motapanyane  
Teacher: Nancie De la Chevotiere

Honourable Mentions  
Jayah Sapp  
Teacher: Nancie De la Chevotiere  
School: Halifax West

Halifax West will be hosting the Lieutenant Governor's Education Medals ceremony for Annapolis Valley, Halifax, South Shore and Tri-County Regional Centres for Education on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Athletics

Track and Field provincials (hosted by Halifax West & Citadel) postponed due to the fires  
Boys and Girls softball both moving to provincials June 9/10  
Basketball coach interviews  
Boys hockey looking for a new coach – interest due June 12

#### Cafeteria Tender

2 proposals Chartwells and MC foods. We have 1 SAC member (Tanya Skelhorn) and 3 teachers completing the evaluation. Due to HRCE by June 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### Prom & Graduation

Prom will be held at the Halifax Marriott Hotel on Tuesday, June 27 7-11pm with a buffet and dance for \$100.

Graduation will be on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the Halifax Forum. Cost is \$60.

#### Emergency Management Plan

Fire Drill – May 16<sup>th</sup> went well  
Hold & Secure – initiated by police on May 29th

#### Student Government Report

##### 2023 - 2024 Student Government Executives

- Grade 11 rep elections (9 people ran, 3 were elected)
- Executive selection/interviews (15 executive members, including grade 11 reps and Co-Presidents)
- Minister selections (approximately 50 students in student government for next year)

#### Dance Canteen (April 21st - 23rd)

- Fundraiser going towards student government this year
- Raised over \$3000

#### Appreciation committee: Secretary appreciation (April 26th)

- Day to appreciate our secretaries for all their hard work and to thank them for their support, effort and determination to help students and staff every single day.
- Lunch from Swiss Chalet/gifts/cards

#### Breakfast Club: Apple Crumble Bake Sale (April 28th)

- Fundraiser for feed NS
- Raised over \$70

#### Matilda: May 11th - 13th

- Successful and outstanding performances by many students
- Warriors Live helped with tech
- Amazing organization from students and staff
- Full house on the last day!!
- Student gov ran a 50/50 draw

#### Arts Promotions: Coffee House (April 17th)

- Last coffee house of the year
- There was over 10 performances

#### Warrior Wellness: Kindness Grams

- Students can write a kind letter to students and/or staff at HWHS
- Spread kindness and luck as the end of the year approaches
- Delivered with a special treat

#### Red Dress Day: May 5th

- In honor for the MMIWG2S+
- Organized by students and staff
- Decorated the west with red dress all over school grounds/Pictures and facts/Art
- These students' work were acknowledged by the students and staff but they were also acknowledged by the community and earned a Lieutenant Governor respectful citizenship award

#### Asian Heritage month: Stories of Determination

- Organized by students and staff to acknowledge, honor and celebrate the contributions and achievements of Asians everywhere in the world
- Trivia/ Activities for classes to participate in
- Announcements are made every morning about Asian Heritage or Facts about Asia
- O Canada is played in different Asian languages

### Other:

- Grad wear
- West Wear spring orders
- Current Sports = Softball / Rugby / Track & Field (Boys track team are the 22' - 23' Metro and Regional champions)

### Upcoming :

- June 5th - June 9th: Last Blast/Pride week
- June 14th: Grade 9 orientation & Senior Sunset
- June 15th: Grade 8 orientation
- Grade 12 Assembly
- June 27th: Prom
- June 28th: Grad Rehearsal
- June 29th - Graduation

## **6. Finance:**

- SAC funding (\$5000 + \$1 for every student).
- SAC discussed the idea of improvements to the library. The library has become a safe, welcoming place for all Halifax West students, and could certainly use improvements such as additional seating, new tables, technology and more.
- SAC agreed to give SAC funds to the library this year and furniture has arrived and is installed. The sofa replacement arm and back arrived and is installed.

## **7. Student Success Planning**

We had 64.4% response rate. 464 students in 2021-2022 and 986 students in 2022-2023  
When the report is received we will share with the SAC.

## **8. Policy Input**

There was no policy input to report at this time

## **9. New Business**

Parking Lot – Mrs. Amaral will be meeting with an architect to review the parking lot and make suggestions for a parent drop off loop and safer crossings for students

Student Fees – Student government has been without funds for the last two years. The school has supported many of their events. The students have also spent a lot of time fundraising. Next year, we are looking at charging \$25 per student. This fee will be used to support the multiple events through the year to benefit all students. Funds are not used to support individual sport teams or clubs.

Athletic banquet will be held throughout the school day in June. Just waiting on final dates for provincial events.

IB graduation will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Yearbooks are scheduled to arrive the second week of June

Painting – we have a mural that will be installed late June. We are looking at painting some hallways to brighten up the school. The African Nova Scotian mural is almost complete. This mural was designed and painted by students with help from the Halifax Regionals Art teacher Ms. Jensen.

**Next meeting:** September 2023

**Adjournment:** 7:07 pm