



Halifax West High School SAC Meeting Minutes

12 May 2015

Attending: John Nisbet, Tim Simony, Sherry Robinson, Lori Welsh, Trish Belliveau, Victoria Best, Shawn Sheehan, John Keith, Scott Guthrie

Regrets: Angela McCarthy, Rob Jollymore, Dolly Hayden

1. 5:30 Meeting Start, Welcome and Introductions
2. Motion to approve agenda from the meeting of 10 March 2015; seconded; approved
3. Motion to approve minutes from the meeting of 10 March 2015; seconded; approved
4. **CSLC 2015 Discussion**
 - Tim Simony started the discussion on some action items brought forward from the CSLC
 - They are currently looking at ways to engage the elementary and junior high level schools. Looking at a parade with student and delegates from the library up to the school.
 - Billet space is still required to house delegates, Halifax has offered funds to help pay for the required criminal record checks that are needed to be a billet family
 - MacDonald's Restaurant is offering to sponsor the food for Leader Advisory Lounge and will highlight their healthier menu; also have offered 2 employees to provide service for the duration.
 - Initiatives are in the works to have second language inclusion for the event
 - It was mentioned that there is a Web Site and a Twitter feed for the event. Social Media sites can be found here:

Web Site: <http://cslc2015.studentleadership.ca/>
Twitter Feed: [@CSLC2015](https://twitter.com/CSLC2015)
Facebook: (CSLC 2015) <https://www.facebook.com/pages/CSLC-2015/382370521921883?fref=ts>

5. **Principal's Report**

Tim Simony presented the Principal's Report

- The report centered on the HRSB Long Range Outlook dated April 30, 2015 found here: <http://www.hrsb.ca/about-hrsb/operations-services/long-range-outlook>
- There was concern surrounding the numbers projected on pg. 209 of the report which shows the

Current School Capacity of 1933” and that “School Utilization is at 77%” These numbers are far too high of an estimate and exceeds the schools original design capacity of approximately 1550. These numbers may lead to misconception that the school is currently underutilized which is certainly not the fact. There does not seem to be any understanding how the DOE came up with these numbers but it is felt it must be an estimation based on square footage. If so it does not appear to take into account rooms that are not set up as traditional classrooms like science labs, meeting areas, specialty rooms, etc. It was also mentioned that the other areas like the cafeteria and gymnasium would not be able to accommodate a student body of that magnitude. Looking at the “Enrollment Projection” for the next 10 years Mr. Tim Simony felt it was realistic but did caution that it is subject to variations. Noting that a change in 30 students would equate to about a 2% variation. Also noting that due to the demographic nature of the West and how it is a magnet to students that come to Halifax from abroad, global issues can also have an impact on enrollment projections.

- Discussion then went to the table on pg. 210 of the report which shows building systems and their condition. Noting repairs are needed to the following:
 1. **Outside Walls:** The front entrance is still in a state of repair. Due to how late the work was started last year, it was suspended as there were cost implications that arose when the colder weather set in. It was decided that it would be best to allow the previous tender to expire, return to the tender process and then have the repairs done when the weather is warmer. We are hopeful these repairs will be carried out by September 2015.
 2. **Heating:** Fortunately the school was able to get by this winter on one of two functioning boilers. The failed electric boiler is in need of replacement.
 3. **Ventilation:** The 350 heat pumps are in need of upgrade/replacement at a cost of approximately two – three thousand dollars per unit.
- Mr. Simony then presented the Staffing and enrollment numbers predicted for the 2015/16 School year. Student body 1503; 1 Principal, 3 Vice-Principals, 81.6 Teachers for HW and 1 Fine Arts teacher who shall be shared with other schools.
- Discussion then moved to the Professional Development Day scheduled for 15 May 2015. Focus Autism. It will be specialized training for a practical strategy on how teachers can be more effective on interactions with students with autism. It will also look at how to use the same skills to work with other students who may not have autism effectively.

6. Chair's Report

- Mr. John Nesbit provided a handout titled Atlantic Teachers' Tour Forests worth Knowing. The information can be found at the web site here: <http://www.teacherstour.com/> John mentioned the HWHS Website: <http://www.hwhs.ednet.ns.ca/SAC/minutes.html> and in particular to the SAC section where the SAC is found. Minutes are not posted and dates are wrong. Suggestion we either post our minutes or remove the selection. Mr. Simony mentioned that there will soon be a launch of a new pilot project called Red Sky that will make the website more manageable and easier to update. Details for Red Sky can be found here:

<http://www.redsky.ca/project/halifax-regional-school-board>

- John also made notice that for our next meeting he would like to discuss succession planning for next year and determine who will remain on the SAC and which positions will be available. John suggested he would be available for a community member but feels it is time for a new Chair
- With that John also mentioned some concern with attendance from all members of the SAC and how we very rarely have our student members.

7. Student's report

No Student were present for a report

- Scott Guthrie noted that he was speaking with the president of the student council (Michael Greenlaw) and was surprised to learn he was not aware of the SAC and that it was not on the Student Council Agenda. Tim mentioned it is time for a discussion with the student members of the SAC.

8. Next Meeting

Scheduled for: 16 June 2015

9. Any Other Business

- Shawn Sheehan : Was looking at a web site recently where DOE and Google have teamed up to offer Google Apps for Education and cloud based storage that can be used on multiple levels for students and staff to share information. If it is embraced he feels it will be very beneficial to all who use it. More information can be found here: <http://edtech.avrsb.ca/assets/google-cheat-sheet.pdf>

10. Meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm