

Minutes of the Halifax West SAC Meeting held on October 14, 2014.

Those Present: John Nisbet, Trish Belliveau, Lori Welsh, Tim Simony, Scott Guthrie, Angela McCarthy, Sherry Robinson.

Absent with regrets: Victoria Best, Shaun Sheehan, Seokho Lim, Lamia Chowdhury, Ken Smith, Dolly Hayden

1. **Welcome**

2. **Agenda** – approved

3. **Introductions and Regrets**

The current members were introduced. It was noted that we need representatives from Park West.

4. **Confirm Membership of SAC – Time lines**

A discussion took place regarding the members and their respective positions on the committee. It was decided that we would wait until we have everyone in attendance so we can see which positions still need to be filled. Tim will contact the Principal of Park West to see if he can suggest the names of parents who can be approached about serving on the committee. It was suggested that we try to get representation from Soccer Nova Scotia, our MLA's and HRM councillors.

5. **Select Officers/Discipline Committee members**

It was decided that the following members would serve on the executive.

John Nisbet – Chairman

Angela McCarthy – Secretary

One additional member to be decided.

The Discipline Committee would consist of the following:

John Nisbet, Trish Belliveau, Scott Guthrie with Angela McCarthy serving as an alternate.

6. **Principal's Report**

- We are hosting the Canadian Student Leadership Conference (CSLC) in September 2015 from September 22-25 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday) Registration will be Tuesday evening. Because we are the host, regular classes at Halifax West only will be cancelled for Wednesday and Thursday and Friday is an inservice day. The Department of Education has agreed that there will be a variation in the calendar for 2014-15 for Halifax West to allow us to host the conference and cancel classes on those days. The entire school will be used for the event. Many of our students will be volunteering and attending some of the special events. Members of staff are expected to help in organizing before and during the event.
 - It is a 5 day conference which has been hosted by different provinces for the last 30 years.
 - There will be approximately 1000 visitors consisting of 700-800 students accompanied by teacher advisors.
 - In September 2014, Lynn Moulton, Sandra Starratt, Jennifer Fougere and Tim Simony went to Kelowna with a number of our Student Government leaders to attend the conference. The staff and students attending took particular notice

of how the conference was organized and run so we can provide a similar worthwhile experience for these young leaders and their chaperones.

- There is much work to be done to prepare for the conference with the organizing committee having to make arrangements to billet the students, arrange the daily and evening activities, organize the food supply and arrange the many workshops, etc. It is a huge undertaking and work has already started by the committee. We are hoping that sponsorship will come from the Province and some local universities.
- There are 1490 students enrolled in Halifax West as of September 30, 2014.
- E-Cigarettes have been showing up in the school. We have taken a stand and our October newsletter stated that they would be treated by Halifax West staff the same as a regular cigarette and are prohibited on school property. Health Canada hasn't taken a stand on this issue yet but it is being discussed at both the Federal and Provincial levels.
- The scaffolding is still on the front of the building. The siding had to be removed because it was failing. Board staff is waiting on a report from the engineer as to how it should be repaired.
- The building is only 11 years old and we have had some significant problems in the last couple of years with roof issues, the front brickwork, heating and cooling. Many of the heat pumps throughout the building have been failing (there are a total of 150 of them situated throughout the school).
- We have decided not to purchase agenda books this year and went instead with a school app that is now up and running. It can be downloaded on both iPhone and android devices. A number of staff members have been trying it out to make sure it is OK. Very shortly, information on how to get the app will be communicated to students and parents. We are hoping that it will increase our ability to communicate with our students and their families by providing up to date information about school activities and events as well as accurate contact information.

7. **Chair's Report**

John recapped the meeting highlights. He suggested that we begin to post the minutes on the Halifax West website.

It was decided that the By-laws be passed out at the next meeting and then put on the agenda for a future meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the role of the Bedford Forsyth Education Centre (formerly FLEX) and it was noted that it is for students who have a difficult time adjusting to regular high school.

8. **Meeting Dates – proposed**

The following meeting dates were suggested: November 18, December 16, January 20, February 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16.

9. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.