

John W MacLeod, Fleming Tower School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library

Attendees: Emily Quigley (Principal), Dave Moorhouse (Co-Chair/ Parent Rep), Jennifer Cholock-Whitty (Staff Rep), Harvey Beaton (School Administrator Supervisor, Alix Robinson (Parent Rep), Mary Beth Ross (Community Rep), Lynne MacKinnon (Teacher Rep), Brian Psooy (Parent Rep), Ashley Matthews-Duffett (Community Rep), Brian Psooy (Parent Rep)

Thirteen parent/guardian and community members were all in attendance as observers.

Regrets: None

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. The following discussion with Mr. Harvey Beaton, HRCE School Administration Supervisor for J.L. Ilsley Family of Schools, regarding concerns about enrollment capacity at JWMFT:
 - Dave outlined the concern brought forward from SAC regarding over-capacity at JWMFT as: timing of the school year and role of SAC. Questions regarding the plan and current status of the plan are the main questions proposed to Harvey
 - Mr Beaton reported that enrollment is increasing and is something to be addressed. February enrollment begins the staffing process and has continued up to now. Class caps were discussed for each grade. Hard and soft caps definitions were explained.
 - The anticipation of exceeding class caps has resulted in the exploration of options such as repurposing a room in the basement, dividing a large room upstairs, and/or the addition portable. This would allow for the addition of another teacher within the school.
 - HRCE Operations has surveyed the site and has concluded that a portable will be added and the upstairs room will be divided into 2 classrooms. This would allow for a total of 2 additional teachers.
 - Dave addressed concerns regarding the role of the SAC and would like to be more involved increased enrollment concerns and classroom configurations. He requested in the future, SAC be more directly involved in decisions. Mr Beaton explained that class configurations are shared with SACs but SAC's are not involved in the decisions made regarding staffing and class configurations.
 - Questions were asked regarding the new role of the SAC. Mr Beaton had no new information to share as these decisions are to be made by the province.
 - When asked about school reviews Mr Beaton reported the government put a moratorium on school reviews. Within this family of schools, some are below capacity and some are over capacity.
 - Mary Beth Ross addressed concerns regarding the following: less space on school grounds, access to bathroom facilities, access to resources, access to pre-primary program.

- When asked about “out-of-area” students. Mr Beaton clarified that students who live within the catchment area of Central Spryfield who choose the French Immersion program, that JWMFT is their school - they are not out of area students.
- Examples of long-term potential options were mentioned. For example in the Sackville schools it was decided that grade 6 students attend junior high making it a middle school. In Bedford, a temporary fix to overcrowding is moving the grade 6 students from Basinview to Rocky Lake Junior High
- There was discussion on starting a French Immersion program at another school. Mr Beaton told the SAC that this was a programming decision but that it is not a simple decision it has complications. For example, establishing a French immersion program at another school may be difficult due to the lack of French teachers in the HRCE and the ability to sustain a program has to be a consideration.
- Emily reviewed the class configurations and reported that JWMFT now has 21 teacher and all classrooms are under cap. (14 French Immersion, and 7 English).
- The boundary review process was outlined by Mr Beaton, according to the 2014 Provincial School Review Policy. In this process two SAC members and the school principal’s play a role at the meetings and the public is invited to give input.
- Questions were raised regarding the use of designed spaces and square footage per student ratio. A concern was raised regarding the lack of a library designed space at Fleming Tower. Concerns were raised regarding the possibility of a pre-primary program, difficulty of having assemblies, and sharing of resources.
- A question was raised to Dave regarding seeking Ministerial approval to put a boundary review in process despite the moratorium.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 5, 2018 Meeting

The minutes are to reflect that Ashley was in attendance the last meeting. Mary- Beth moved to accepted the minutes as amended. Jennifer Cholock seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

4. The following items were address from business arising from the minutes

- Fencing along Purcells Cove Road - Funding has been approved by Shawn Cleary
- Discussion regarding JWMFT strategy/ position for SAC Consultations. Dave requested more transparency to SAC regarding class configurations.

5. Principal’s Report - This item was tabled due to time constraints. Emily will forward her report to the SAC. However, she reported Jennifer Cholock has accepted a Vice-principal position at Ash Lee Jefferson. SAC members wished her the best of luck and congratulated her on her new position. She will be missed by the JWMFT community.

6. New Business - There was no new business to report.

7. Date for next meeting - The date for the next meeting will be June 7, 2018.

8. Adjournment at 7:05.