



# INVERNESS EDUCATION CENTRE ACADEMY

59 Veterans Memorial Court, Inverness, Nova Scotia, B0E 1N0  
Phone: 902-258-3700, Fax: 902-258-3899

**Principal**  
**Mr. Peter Goosens**

**Vice-Principal**  
**Mr. Gary Forgeron**

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## SAC Meeting Minutes for Oct 1, 2020

**Present:** Norma MacKinnon, Peter Goosens, Gary Forgeron, Rachel MacDonnell, Tanya Feehan, Lorna MacDonald, Stephanie Swinkels, Alanna MacLellan-Mansell

**Not Present:** Jennifer Ryan, Al Poirier, Vikki MacEachern, Diane MacDonald, Estelle MacArthur, Brent MacPherson

### Principal Updates

- **Technology**
  - There are currently enough Chromebooks available for each student from grade 6 to 12 to take home. In grade 5 there are enough for each student to keep in the school. More Chromebooks are coming.
  - Computers in the lab will be removed because they are old and high school students each have their own. Also, this room will be used if we go to Plan B
- **Plan B**
  - The administration has worked on a detailed Plan B scenario to be sent to the Deputy Minister of Education for approval. This plan includes a reconfiguration of classrooms to allow 2 metres between students, a change in numbers of students per class and the redistribution of staff to accommodate these smaller groups.
- **Sports**
  - As of today we can have up to 50 people operating in a game, which can take place outdoors or in an arena/gym setting.
  - Stadiums and outdoors settings could have up to 200 people, including spectators, however the school would have to have the facilities and ability/comfort-level to manage all of the safety protocols.
  - There will be no regional tournaments, just games.
  - Not many students came out for soccer this year. Peter tried to suggest changing the seasons to have other sports earlier, but this is not allowed.
  - All Jr Sports will fall under NSSAF regulations.
- **Breakfast Program**



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- Chartwells is currently supplying the breakfast program with individually packaged items. However, they will not necessarily be doing it all year. The SRCE chose to begin the year with Chartwells in order to be sure that the program and safety protocols were organized given Covid-19.
- Having Chartwells supply the breakfast is currently costing more money for less food than in the past.
- There was discussion about whether community volunteers would be willing/comfortable coming to the school in the future if it were possible to reinstate the community-run breakfast program.
- We may have to consider how to go back to the community-based breakfast program safely (finding willing volunteers, finding a space for serving food, minimizing gatherings of students, how to serve food given new safety protocols)

## **COVID Updates**

There was a brief discussion about holding school events, but it is too soon to know how/when events can take place. This will be discussed further at a later date.

## **Survey Feedback**

Some results were discussed from the survey sent out asking how the SAC might be able to support the school given all the changes resulting from COVID.

- **Outdoor Learning themes**
  - There was interest expressed in making outdoor learning more accessible and suggestions to create an outdoor classroom/learning area.
  - There was a question about whether or not to invest in technology for outdoors. For instance, making the Wifi stronger.
  - A suggestion was made that we could fundraise to afford a dedicated space for outdoor learning. There was a discussion a location for a space as well as what it could include: benches, stumps, gazebo-type structure. Any planned space would have to be in line with regulations.
- **Physical Education and Outdoor Activities**
  - The principal and Phys. Ed. teacher have discussed buying materials and creating bins for each cohort (class of students) to use when they are outside. This would prevent cross-contamination between cohorts and would minimize the time needed to sanitize everything after each use. There is an outdoor storage area that could be used to store all the bins.
  - The principal and Phys. Ed. teacher have also discussed the need to repair/replace goal posts and other equipment (badminton posts, repaving outdoor basketball courts)



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- The Regional Executive Director of Education, Paul Landry, has stated that funding for repairing/replacing equipment etc. could be feasible given the current push for outdoor learning.
- There was a suggestion that Schools Plus could be encouraged to gather, store and provide outdoor clothing items to students who do not have proper cold/wet weather gear in order to promote outdoor learning.

## **SAC Funds to support School Success Plan goals**

- Projects supported by SAC funds must be related to the SSP. Since all accounts are centralized any project will go through the school account.
- There are some funds from last year to be carried over and there was a suggestion that we be sure to use any money that might otherwise be lost.
- Some funds could be used to support preparations for Plan B or Plan C scenarios.
- Funds could be used to create the bins of materials for each cohort as described above, to support outdoor learning initiatives and wellness initiatives.
- There was the decision to see what develops as the year continues and what we may need funds for.

## **Letter/Email from the Education Minister**

We read the response from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in regard to the letter sent by our SAC asking for clarification about the wording in the Back to School Plan. The response was a generic letter that reiterated the same directives in the plan with no clarifications. Instead, the Minister of Education stated that he was happy we have found creative ways to solve our problems and restated that there is \$40 million (Provincial) and \$47 million (Federal) in funds to support students. He provided no clarification about how that money is being distributed or how it is being used.

## **Questions from Student Council**

There was a question about fundraising for graduation and yearbook and how this might proceed this year. After a brief discussion it was decided that this question needs to be considered further before any decisions can be made.

**Next meeting: October 29<sup>th</sup>**