

SAC Meeting Minutes Oct 29th, 2020

Present: Jennifer Ryan, Peter Goosens, Gary Forgeron, Estelle MacArthur, Vikki MacEachern, Raylene MacLean, Stephanie Swinkels, Al Poirier, Diane MacDonald and Tanya Feehan.

Not Present: Norma Mackinnon, Rachel MacDonnell, Lorna MacDonald, Alanna MacLellan-Mansell and Brent MacPherson.

Principal/Vice Principal Updates

Breakfast Program

- There is an upcoming meeting with SRCE on November 2nd or 3rd during which it is expected that the decision will be made to move away from Chartwells supplying the breakfast program and moving towards the previously run volunteer program. This could happen as early as mid-November.
- Guidelines on how this is to be run will be announced, but overall there will be no serving of portions as in the past, everything must be individually wrapped to “grab and go” as students come through a central area, as yet to be determined.
- The 20-21 monetary allowance remains the same at 6500\$ plus an additional 2800\$ left from last year. There is funding from other sources as needed (food insecurity funds and Coop food donations).
- An email went out the volunteers and a response has yet to be received.
- Essential volunteers are allowed entry into IECA as long as they mask and disinfect.

Bus Routes

- Trying to re-distribute riders over all 3 bus routes. Kevin Pierce can help with this.
- Currently the rules are that 70 or 71 riders are allowed per bus (about 3 per seat).
- There is courtesy busing within the town, but students within 1.6 km of school could be walking, which would reduce bus congestion.

Covid Update

- Halloween: Kids come in costume, no treats allowed from home. School doing Bingo over intercom for all classes. SAC to fund and organize treats for P-12.
- Remembrance Day: 10 minute outdoor ceremony only.
- Christmas: Our ability to gather is still limited, but may yet open up. We may be able to do the Christmas Concert over 2 nights with family groupings and distancing. There were suggestions by the committee about pre-recorded songs or drive by art show.

Outdoor Education

- Inverness has tree stumps cut and on the way to the school. Now the decision has to be made as to where to place them. In the discussion it was mentioned that Bayview has

outdoor classroom with stumps and Richmond had the technical class build and design one prior to Covid-era pressures.

- P-1 students have been measured for "outdoor suits", which are now ordered. Storage will be an issue, perhaps a mobile rack can be built.
- Peter and Phil Blackwood are collaborating to create cohort outdoor "buckets" for outdoor play.
- Need for outdoor academic equipment, there was some questions regarding what that might entail.

NS Schools Models for Learning during Covid

- Blended Model (B): P-8 can remain in building, however Peter has proposed that at IECA P-12 can remain in the building. Chrome books for Grade 3 students are on route. Students can book access time in IECA to use the internet or to access teaching staff.
- Home Model(C): Will occur zone by zone, not provincially. There will be more testing opportunities and the learning model will resemble the pre-Covid style.

General Information

- No coat racks for the Grade 4 and 5 classes yet, the measurements were done in September, but awaiting construction.
- Gay-Strait Alliance: there should be a chapter in each school, there is a small amount of funding available.
- Wellness Day for Mental Health: perhaps a day later in the year could be set aside. There was some discussion about presenters and remote presenting possibilities(e.g. Zoom)

Survey

- Overview: There were 20 respondents (teachers and administrative staff). The overall response was very positive. Most respondents were so thankful to be in school again and to live in our area.
- Challenges identified: 1) the pressures of teaching under conditions of Covid-19. 2) The frustrations of working remotely with technology, such as access to reliable internet service. 3) The uncertainties of outdoor learning, such as an adequate shelter and professional development for the teachers. 4) The sense of lack of support from the SRCE and the Department of Education during this crisis.
- There was some discussion in the group as to how we could support the teachers and staff with these challenges. Perhaps to voice the importance of reliable internet access.

SAC Funding possibilities

- The SAC funds have just been received, 5235\$ plus the remainder from last year of 3275\$.
- **Suggested Needs:** P-3: playdough, magnetic letters, basic school supplies, paper. Technology: iPads, Document camera (approx 1200\$), Math program in case schools shut down (e.g. IXL), any more tech (replacement of old or outdated equipment)
- Group discussion around other funding possibilities for school supplies such as the backpack fund (1700\$), and a donation box like at Tamarac Education Centre.

Community Health Board Grants

- The CHB has a pool of money for wellness grants, they will be accepting proposals from the schools. Their mandate is social isolation, mental health and poverty. The total is 5000\$ to be divvied up. Offers are being done at all SAC meetings in Inverness County. Ideas would have to be submitted by the next SAC meeting to Stephanie Swinkels who sits on both committees. There was discussion about possible application ideas.

Audio Equipment Funding

- Norma and Jennifer will write a letter of support for funding for new audio equipment for IECA for a mixing board, speakers, clip on microphones and a keyboard. The application is asking for funding of between 5000-15000\$.

Next Meeting Nov 19th.