

# PARK WEST SCHOOL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Date:** May 6, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 P.M.

### In Attendance

**Students:** Grade 7, 8 and 9 Reps

**Parents:** Dinesh Pathak

**School Staff:** Beth Landers; Dawne McLellan; Sonja Goold

**Community Members:** Karen Saweczko; Wendy McDonald

**School Administration:** Rachael Webster; A. Ferguson; A. Stone

### Agenda

1. Call to order
2. New Business
  - 2.1 Grant opportunities
  - 2.2 New school update
  - 2.3 Finalize funding
3. Reports
  - 3.1 Principal Report
  - 3.2 Student Reports
4. Adjournment: Next Meeting June 17, 2026

### 1. Call to Order

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was held in-person.

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### 2. New Business

2.1 While we discussed getting funding for a new primary playground or improvements to the school grounds, no funding has been announced for the SAC Innovation Grant for 2026. It could be a victim of budget cuts. There is a HRM Grant option that schools can apply for but the deadline was March 31; note for next year. There is also a potential donation of up to 15K from councilors that could be looked into. (Post-meeting we also learned of the TD Friends of the Environment Grant).

2.2 Walk to School Day is Wed May 13, with info available at [hike.novascotia.ca](http://hike.novascotia.ca). In addition, HRM is conducting an Active School Travel Study between May 4-29. School admin to share with parents.

2.3 New school development is continuing with minimal updates. The trail is to be closed for 6 weeks for drainage work but no date has been confirmed. Wendy was looking into a crosswalk into Turnmill Park for this time period. Trees have been cut between the school and the linear path; Halifact is an option to explore for new trees.

2.4 \$4776 remains in the funding envelope for this year but there are no expenditures outstanding. All literacy and math materials are up-to-date, with wellness ideas recently purchased in previous years. SAC authorized money for bussing for field trips if required; otherwise the rest will carry over into the 2026-27 school year.

### Reports

3.1 Principal's Report: Enrollment is at 899. For next year we are down one classroom to 37, with 3.5 classes of primary currently. We are waiting to finalize the admin staff for next year. There is lots of teamwork within the school community, especially with respect to inclusion.

There has not yet been an outcome to the allocation meeting focusing on EPA and Learning Centre planning. Report Cards and Book Fair are completed, and there was a talent show for grades 6-9 which was fabulous! Fire drill #4 identified some bottlenecks which are being improved upon. A bomb threat occurred but all protocols were followed and HRM deemed it to not be a credible threat. The Grade 9s have been fundraising through bottle drives, bake sales and pizza lunches for their trip to Camp Brigadoon.

Staffing for next year is still being determined, but class lists and scheduling have begun. Teacher Appreciation week is next week. Grade 3 and 8 provincial assessments are occurring the end of May. There will be a 6-9 dance on June 4 and a possible family dance on May 28. The Grade 9 closing is June 26 and primary orientation is in the fall.

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The SSP is meeting students where they are academically, supporting teachers with tier one instruction before seeking out additional supports. The tiers of support were not previously in place and allow for more ownership of instructing by the teachers in the classroom.

Landscaping does need to be done around the school and the principal has a contact for the fall depending on what happens with admin placements. There is also a gardening club that could build raised garden beds for the front of the school.

3.2 Students Reports: Grade 9s are very excited for the trip to Brigadoon but sad about the end of their time at Park West. Congratulations to Jane on receiving the Citizenship Award, with ceremony on May 26! Grade 8s are preparing for provincial assessments, which are all taking place online. Grade 7s will be attending a French concert at MSVU via Metro Transit.

Adjourned: 7:00 PM

Next Meeting: June 17, 2026 at the Redwood Grill.