

PARK WEST SCHOOL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

Date: November 20, 2019

Time: 5:45 P.M.

In Attendance

Students: Grade 7 Rep, Grade 8 Rep, Grade 9 Rep

Parents: Karen Saweczko (chair), Sheetal Ajay, Jeff Rogers

School Staff: Ms. Petrie

Community Members: Glenn Anderson, Janet Lee, Waseema Nazim

School Administration: Mr. Carter, Mr. Melanson

Regrets: Ms. Olsen, Ms. Bennett, Ms. MacIntyre

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Correspondence – Email re: a) Feedback Summary on Extracurricular Activities; b) website for SAC's; c) SAC Feedback Summary on Annual Reports; d) email addresses
3. Reports:
 - 3.1 Principal
 - 3.2 Student Representatives
4. School Success Plan:
5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting:
 - 5.1 Class Cap Report
 - 5.2 Report on Meeting with Director HRCE re Class Sizes
 - 5.3 Report on SAC PD Session, November 8, 2019
6. New Business
 - 6.1 Budget Expenditures 2019/2020
 - 6.2 Grade 9 Electronic Report Cards
 - 6.3 Inclusive Education Policy
 - 6.4 Possible SAC Event re Parent Engagement
 - 6.5 Increase to Number of SAC Meetings
- 7 Adjournment: Next Meeting January 15, 2020

PARK WEST SCHOOL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order

The Chair opened the meeting at 5:53 P.M.

It was noted that the September Meeting Summary had been approved by members and had been posted to the PWS website.

2. Correspondence

The Chair advised that all SAC's have been provided an email account for SAC business. This provides opportunity to ensure that as members rotate out the Chair's email account will live on through the new members. hrce.sac.pws@gnspec.ca

The EECD has created a website to post appropriate SAC content for use by members and the public. ednet.ns.ca/sac

EECD has provided a Consultations Feedback Summary for the input received by all SAC's on the Extracurricular Activity Supervision Policy. This includes the changes to be made to the policy and is available on the EECD SAC Website.

The EECD has also summarized the Annual Reports submitted by each SAC for the 2018/19 school year and has made this available on the website as well.

Question: What action was taken with the student who had posted some inappropriate blog content that mentioned the school? Mr. Carter advised there was no malicious intent and that the issue had been handled through education.

3. Reports

3.1 Principal

- **Publication Provided:** Park West School Report November 20, 2019
- **Document Provided:** Regional Student Success Plan (RSSP)

Mr. Carter highlighted a number of items from the PWS School Report:

- Indigenous Reconciliation Assembly was held in October.
- Junior High dance and social was a success with about 100 students attending.
- Grade 9 trip is moving forward as the minimum viable participation has been reached.
- Current school enrollment is 876 students.

PARK WEST SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

- Policy for Inclusive Education is in process with implementation expected in September 2020.
- Where schools have had their own Student Success Plans, the HRCE has now created a regional plan in support of student success. The Regional Student Success Plan (RSSP) has a theme of “raising the bar and closing the gap”. The SSP’s have focused on math and literacy and now both plans will include student well-being third focus area.
- There are 5 student teachers at PWS from MSVU and St. F.X.
- Elementary (P-3) Christmas Concerts will be postponed until January/February.

3.2 Student Representatives

- Grade 9 – Students have appreciated the change with the cafeteria vendor, there is now more choice particularly for those with dietary restrictions. Students enjoyed the take your kid to work day and presented their experience back to the class. There have been some very good guest speakers students have found interesting and motivating. Grade 9’s will be holding a bake sale to raise funds. Overall, the no backpacks in class is being received positively, it is much easier to move around.
- Grade 8 – Students enjoyed the exercise of exploring various job options.
- Grade 7 – Students had the opportunity to launch their bottle rockets.

Question: How is the cellphone policy working? Can be a struggle with specific students, teachers are holding phones until the end of class if there is an issue. The current challenge is wireless earbuds as they are more difficult to detect and cause students to be distracted while learning. Administration will be reviewing to determine what updates to the policy may be required. It was noted that some students work well when performing individual work and being able to listen to music. It allows them to drown out the surrounding distractions.

4. School Success Plan Update

Document Provided: School Student Success Plan

- The SSP is now to be reviewed and updated as required at each SAC meeting.
- This is the second year of the plan at PWS.
- Wellness goal will be added to the SSP and will perhaps include teacher wellness. Looking to have this established for the next SAC meeting.

PARK WEST SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

- Literacy goals have typically focused on reading, but for this year we have switched to one of writing.
- Each grade has common assessments, twice per school year, to gain insight from the data collected.
- As with the literacy goal, the math goal reflects the range of grades at PWS. Problem solving and understanding are core competencies and have different levels of competence at each grade level.
- In addition to the assessments, teachers know anecdotally how students are performing.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

5.1 Class Cap Report

- HRCE released report on October 5, 2019. It is available on the HRCE website.
- PWS this year has 13 over cap classes: 12 elementary and 1 junior high. This is 4 more over cap classes than last year.
- HRCE - 84 (1.6%) classes are over cap across the region. Grades P-2 are highest at 6.7%.

5.2 Report on Meeting with Director HRCE re Class Sizes

- Select members of the SAC met with the director in October regarding class sizes.
- PWS has less floater teachers this year as there are over 1,400 new students in the HRCE this year requiring teachers to be repositioned.
- Boundary verification and capping new registration were discussed for PWS. The Director advised where all surrounding schools are full there would be no benefit to doing so.
- Modular classroom, similar to that being planned for Duc D'Anville School, was discussed. This would provide a better environment when compared to the chalets.
- Director was asked about the new JR High for the area, there was nothing new to share.
- Chair will be meeting with the MLA to push for modular classroom(s).

5.3 Report on Professional Development Day

- Session Was held for Chairs and Principals and focused on the RSSP and policy development.

PARK WEST SCHOOL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

- Chair provided feedback to EECD that longer lead times are required if they wish to have meaningful feedback from SAC members.

Discussion: Discussion on the restorative approach to behavioural issues and how the SAC may be able to support the program. To be discussed at next meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Budget Spending 2019/2020

Document Provided: PWS Wish List 2019 - 2020

The Wish List has been compiled and submitted to the SAC and PTA. Members are to review the document to advance approvals at the next meeting.

6.2 Grade 9 Electronic Report Cards

HRCE is looking for schools to pilot electronic report cards. Students would be able to obtain them via Power School and parents would have the ability to opt in/out. There was general support to move forward with discussions on the pilot program.

6.3 Inclusive Education Policy

Not discussed.

6.4 Possible SAC Event on Parent Engagement

Discussion on the possibility of the SAC holding an engagement event for parents, particularly for those new to the community.

6.5 Increase in Number of SAC Meetings

With the increased number of agenda items, it was discussed whether the SAC should move to a monthly meeting format, excluding December and March. This would add two (2) meetings to the calendar. This was accepted.

Adjourned: 7:04 PM

Next Meeting: January 15, 2020