

School Council Minutes

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Welcome new members of local town councils - Craig Scott (Torbay) and Trish Williams (Pouch Cove)

Attendance: Andrew Hickey, Kelly McCarthy, Patricia Mahon, Kelly Santos, Corina Martin, Peggy Combden, Craig Scott and Trish Williams

Absent: Kerri Mercer

1. Minutes reviewed correction of date for date of safe grad meeting should be: Jan 2016. Letter mentioned regarding the cyber bullying issue will be prepared by non-staff members of the committee.

2. Minutes adopted

3. Principal's report – exams

4. Reports Feb 11th

5. Year almost half over

6. STRIVE program - Internet/violence – presented recently to students by RNC

7. RCMP pres. drugs level one students will get a presentation 23rd of January and Feb. 1st.

8. Student issues lately a few issues Jr. High not feeling comfortable in parts of the building. Mixing of Sr. and Jr. class areas are causing some issues. Some younger students have indicated that they are afraid to go into washrooms or walk past Sr. students in hall. This is a new issue for us. After exams when term 2 begins we are moving all Sr. classes back to the Sr. high wing. A message will be sent home indicating that the Sr. students must stay on assigned side of the building for classes, washrooms etc. This will result in changes to student/teacher schedules.

9. Semesterization – The Provincial Department of Education is piloting year 4 of 5 at Holy Heart High on semesterization of courses. Surveys to date have been positive on this pilot.

There are several pros and cons to this system:

This system would require final exams in January and June including Public Exams - overall less assessment time spent and more focus on class instruction time.

Reflective schedule of post secondary such as MUN

Each term would have 4 assigned courses (16 credits per year) presently we do 14 credits per year so it would be helpful for anyone who fails a course and needs to pick up credits.

Compressed courses if you are sick or weak in a subject it can be challenging, but a second semester can help you pick up credits, repeat a course or possibly pursue alternate courses.

Spare periods are assigned as study periods for catch up. A full day would consist of 4 classes of 75 minutes each.

Should HTH participate? Our Administrative Team has been considering that question. We already have some semesterization courses in math and science and this seems to prove positive in academic performance stats.

Question raised how it would impact struggling students who have modified courses. They would be semesterization as well and accommodated same as they are currently.

NL Government wants 3 more schools to pilot provincially with different configurations of schools and various geographic locations

Deadline is mid Feb. for proposal. Chance of approval is low due to our proximity to Holy Heart.

10. Tutoring currently available for students during lunch hour and some after school tutoring for tuition. This information will be added to our newsletter so parents are aware of this opportunity.

11. Use of gala funds - no major expenditure since last meeting. We did buy 4 chrome books for classroom pilot to access internet. GAFE teachers in action google apps for education

Students can access GAFE to access lessons, notes etc...

Students with GAFE accounts can access google docs/drive etc.... Cloud technology

\$250 plus tax \$1000 spent.

12. Update on new school - if new school is not ready Sept. 2016 we will have a population increase of about 10 students for 2016-17 school year.

Craig Scott suggested it is on schedule right now or perhaps even a little ahead.

Corina Martin mentioned the pending parent meeting about the new school but no word on that meeting has been heard.

13. Change of opening times pros and cons discussed. The status of opening before the Elementary school has always been preferred as some parents rely on older students for child care. Students prefer the earlier 2:20 dismissal for extra-curricular events, practice times and games.

14. Safe grad planning update:
Another recycling blitz in March

15. Questions/concerns from community members:

Parking - new snow clearing contractor now in place

Sidewalk coming end of new sidewalk to school corner summer2016

Town of Torbay wants a youth rep on council - serve possibly one year term. It was determined that once criteria are finalized to advertise mainly in Town newsletter and additionally in June school newsletter.

16. Next meeting February 17th at 7 PM