

**Antigonish Education Centre**  
**School Advisory Council Meeting Notes**

**October 18, 2021**

Call to order: 7:00 p.m.

Record of Attendance:

April Weaver - Principal

Kim Grant – School Counsellor

Tara Hassin – School Counsellor Intern

Wanda Fougere – Coordinator of Programs and Policy Development

JeanMichel Cote- Parent

Addition to Agenda: none

Approval of Agenda: Approved by Kim Grant Seconded by Tara Hassin

Approval of Meeting Summary: Approved by Kim Grant Seconded by Tara Hassin

Business Arising from Meeting Summary:

1. PowerPoint Presentation by Wanda Fougere, Coordinator of Programs and Policy Development

This PowerPoint presentation will be shared on our webpage.

SAC roles and responsibilities

Review of the roles and funding available – \$5000.00 + \$1/student Funding must be spent within this school year, cannot be carried over. This ensures it is spent on current students.

- Has to support the school goals
  - Can go toward policy development
  - Can go toward supporting SAC (babysitting to allow members to attend, snacks, end of year pizza party)
- Principal is responsible for doing a year-end report, which included how the money was spent.

The role of the SAC to advise the decision making on big issues, not day-to-day operations. The main focus is to improve student achievement in the areas of student well-being, literacy, and numeracy.

Open Positions; all positions are open

Next month our SAC will discuss our goals for this year's spending. An annual report will be submitted at the end of the school year. We will look at the reporting template at next month's meeting.

2. Still seeking members from the school and community to fill the following positions on our Advisory Council
  - three (3) parents/guardians –
  - one support staff member
  - three community members which will include one African Nova Scotian member

Secretary will rotate; meeting minutes are posted on our school website.

### 3. Before and After School Program Updates

A Parent Group has been established on Facebook called *Antigonish and Area Parents for After School Childcare*. Are many other families facing the same child care challenges? Can a BAP program be initiated in our community?

This group has written letters to SRCE and to our new Minister of Education, Becky Druhan to express the growing need for before and after school programming in the Antigonish area. April Weaver has reached out to Regional Programs Director, Darrel LeBlanc. Some families have approached Carolyn Webber. Mr. Landry, Regional Education Director is aware of the current needs for after school programming.

Some identified challenges:

The N.S Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is not currently accepting applications for new BAP Programs. It was in a pilot phase and opening anymore until it is no longer a pilot program.

- Staffing of a BAP Program must be by a licensed 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- The Pre-Primary Program uses the classrooms at AEC immediately following school dismissal for planning purposes. Can a space and materials be made available in this area of the school for a BAP?

Next steps:

Contact Carolyn Webber for a meeting.

Contact Effie Vincent of Ponderosa Play and Learn to discuss her experience with providing after school programming.

## New Business

### COVID-19 Updates

October 4: Provincial Vaccine Policy for extracurricular use of AEC facilities

October 18: COVID-19 rapid tests sent home to all children at AEC

November 30: Vaccine mandate for all school-based staff

## SAC Principal's Report

School Safety – 3 fire drills and a Code Blue drill have been completed

September 29: Orange Shirt Day

September 30: Truth and Reconciliation Day – ribbon activity

October is Mi'kmaw History Month – Exploring Treaties and Treaty Relationships

Displaying the provincial poster celebrating this month

Introducing the characters and puppets in our new Mi'kmaw resources – scavenger hunt activity, translating the Honor Song

Music class – taping of the Honor Song for a month-end presentation

October 6: Turkey dinner

October 8: Running Club – field trip to Beaver Mountain Park

October 18 & 19: Fall fun day, Grades 1 and 2

October 22: October conference, teacher PD, no classes for students

October 29: Halloween celebrations, costumes and healthy snacks

November 8: Remembrance Day will be as it was last year. Taped ceremony with student contributions what we will share with each class

November 25: Virtual Parent-Teacher Meeting

## School Counsellor's Report

Morning Announcements each day for students –

Themes: Optimistic October, next month will be New Ways November

Optimistic October goes along with the Hopeful lesson in PATHS but it can also bring up the feeling of 'disappointed', which we can then discuss strategies for dealing with that uncomfortable feeling.

Kids in the Know Lessons for the grade 2's co-facilitated with Cst. MacPherson.

By the end of October, we should have all classes completed, and we will start with the grade one classes in hopes of completing them before the Holidays.

Peer helpers have started doing the lunch deliveries. They are very enthusiastic and are doing a great job. A shout out to John and Steve, our lunch supervisors for helping assist them in their learning.

This week, Kim Grant and Tara Hassin will be participating in a Regional Professional Learning Community for School Counsellors as well as the NSTU Conference for School Counsellors

Looking ahead to November, we will be doing more on Peace and Kindness for New Ways November.

Set Next Meeting Date, Time: 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 15, 2021

Adjournment: 8:00 pm

Moved by Kim Grant, Seconded by JeanMichel Cote

Respectfully submitted, April Weaver/Kim Grant