

Wolfville School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

October 5th, 7 - 9 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

I. Introductions

Present: Lisa Speigel, Janna Wentzell (Treasurer/Vice Chair), Elisabeth Knein, Jodi MacKay, Allison Carey-Millet, Ruth M^{ac}Leod, Jen Kershaw, Emily Parks, Rob Craig, Meike Doruieden, Margaret Miller, Siobhann MacDougall, Emily Leeson, Julien Davis, Evan Sheffield, Mae Ru Sanford, Noah Kimball, Steve Keddy, Rachel Veale, Andrew Webber (Town of Wolfville), Ted Salmon (Community Member), Alan Howell (Chair), Kim Huskins

Regrets: School Board Rep Lavinia Parrish Zwicker

II. Approval of the Agenda

- A motion to approve the minutes was tabled by Alan Howell, seconded by Lisa Speigel, approved unanimously

III. Approval of the Minutes

- No minutes were tabled

IV. SAC Membership Discussion

- Alan Howell reviewed the terms of reference for the new SAC (integrating the former “Home and School” into the School Advisory Council). He highlighted that the council tries to work through consensus and that anyone present can contribute to the discussion, however only members can vote.
- New members: Julien Davis put his name forward to be a member at large, Emily Leeson put her name forward to be the social coordinator, and Jen Kershaw put her name forward to be the secretary/ communications person (updating facebook page, contacting Louise at the office to add things to the school calendar)

V. Reports

1. Ice Cream Social

- There were lots of people in attendance and people voiced having enjoyed the opportunity to come to the school and socialize (and enjoy ice cream together). Mr. Keddy voiced some concerns regarding safety (students on the stage, going up into the bleachers, etc.) and suggested that we could work together to modify this event if we go forward with it again in the future.

2. Principal's Report

- Renovations: many details are still being sorted out (E.g. lockers will be put in place for the middle school by the end of the year, pencil sharpeners, coat hooks...)
- Safety is an ongoing concern due to traffic (signage, laws not being followed regarding crosswalks, one way traffic), the RCMP have come up and had a presence, a PR campaign will target this issue, fines and deterrents will be used moving forward
- Micmac history event is being planned, if anyone has any contacts, please forward to Mr. Keddy
- RCMP liaison officer has been contacted regarding rumours regarding “Creepy clowns” in the community; thus far there have been no threats made towards Wolfville School, the students, staff or families to the knowledge of our Community Liaison Officer
- A plan was circulated for the most current landscaping and other renovation work on the Middle school side

3. Student’s Report

- These students had to go through a process of giving speeches (suggesting ideas, etc.); 10 students out of a possible 22 offered to sit on the council
- Concerns: regarding the playground soccer nets and more swings
- Soccer teams update; the girls and boys teams have finished their exhibition season
- There are girls’ and boys’ volleyball teams this fall
- First dance Tuesday, October 18th

4. Teacher’s Report

- Teachers are enjoying their new spaces and the proximity to the playground (after the longer trek last year)
- There have been provincial assessments across many levels this past week

5. Community Representative’s Report

- Concern about the propane tanks; the problem is that it reduces property value. The suggestion is to build a fence /planters to camouflage the tank. The town is in favour of this and perhaps there could be some partnership there.
* Mr. Keddy responded that there is a landscaping plan and the intent is to hide the tanks. This concern will be brought to those doing the renovation work.
- Suggestion that it would also be great to move the large garbage bins moved around the back

6. Town’s Report

- New afterschool programs getting started next week; if they are successful, others will be offered in the spring. The plan is to get information out to parents sooner in the future.
- National school safety week: PR regarding to slowing traffic

7. Chair’s Report

- Please forward any issues or feedback; people are encouraged to come to meetings or have any issues they would like discussed added to the agenda. If the item is timely, please contact Mr. Keddy about the concern.

8. Fundraising Report

- The railing for the gym, will be tendered at a later date
- Last year Mathletics was the main focus for funding

VI. For Discussion

1. Lice Matters

- This company would like to come in and give a presentation regarding lice treatment
- The information will be sent to Mr. Keddy (this is the general policy in regards to businesses wanting to pass on information)

2. Library Request

- Funfair raised ~\$1800, 10% generally goes back to the school; more is being held back for a capital project (gym hall railing)
- Last year a decision was made to support the Indigo Adopt a School program (where voting would increase how many books the school could receive; however the program was changed shortly before it began)
- The library has requested \$500
- Janna Wentzell tabled a motion to support the request for \$500 for the library for books (through Indigo Adopt a School program), Jodi MacKay seconded and it was passed unanimously

VII. Event Planning

1. Discussion of Home and School Events

- a. Suggestion that a free will donation to cover costs, not to fundraise (rather than donation of specific things, E.g. Ice cream toppings, etc.)

2. Tentative List of Events (person who will take the lead on organising)

- **Ice Cream Social:** suggestion that we do it earlier in September (on games field/playground, with games), or sit down (dim lights); there are some security issues with children running around without purposeful activity
- **Family Fun Nights:** (Margaret Miller, Tracey) one in the fall, winter and spring
- **Fun Fair:** (Emily Parks)
- **Holiday Bazaar:** Raises funds for school families in need (Elisabeth Knein), last year doing the sorting in the gym straight onto the tables made it much easier.
- **Clean-a-thon:** In May (Kim Huskins), funds raised will go to the playground improvement fund

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| <p>ACTION ITEM for Mr. Keddy will ask Carol Inskip (school secretary) about the check from last year's Clean-a thon and report back to the treasurer</p> |
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- **Teacher Appreciation:** February, last year they did a potluck lunch (Emily Parks will organise the lunch part for this year), baked goods, flowers (rose or carnation/teacher), cards from students
- **Chicken dinner:** 350 tickets is a sell out for the dinner, Janna Wentzell is not interested in organising it as there was not great support in advance, Carl from the Independent and the Rotary helped a great deal; it would help if more people organised and share the job, it is a great fundraiser (~\$2000). December 2nd is the Tree Lighting Ceremony (Julien Davis and Emily Leeson will take it up) and will be the tentative date for this year
- **Other ideas:** seat raffle (buy tickets for a raffle to see if you could win a front row seat for one of the school concerts), Noah (student rep) suggested a dinner theatre (perhaps when the school play is put on), corn boil first week of school

VIII. Capital Project Fundraising

- Suggestion of a range of enhancements for the renovation, E.g. outdoor classroom, acoustic baffles for the stage to enhance productions/concerts...
- Possibility for brick campaign (donations acknowledged on the brick)
- Looking for someone to spearhead this; it would involve contacting corporate donors, alumni, etc.
- Alan Howell tabled a motion to establish a committee to oversee Capital Project Fundraising, Janna seconded, all approved unanimously

IX. Policy Discussion

- Moved to next meeting

X. Playground Improvement

- Nets are going to be replaced, some have been ordered, some have arrived and are about to be replaced
- A lot of improvements were done in the past, a legacy fund was put into place: this was used to buy equipment over the years
- \$14000 now in place as a start for a larger scale improvement
- Accessibility is a consideration for any playground improvements
- Focus: soccer field improvements, play structure, upper playground, area by Prospect Street that could have better usability (workout stations)
- Field or play structure + \$100, 000, each; the surface is very expensive
- Wood chips less expensive, less accessible
- Tomorrow they will meet, a priority area will be chosen based on the feedback from the school community (survey of parents and students)
- Fund raising: magazine, grants, clean-a-thon, bricks, metal tree, town/ province grants, accessibility grants (special needs, autism, etc.)

XI. Set Next Meeting Date

- Monday Nov. 14th, 2016: 7 – 9 pm

XII. Adjourn

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alan Howell at 9:10 pm, seconded by Emily Parks, approved unanimously