

# **NGRHS School Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

September 22, 2016

### **1. Call to Order**

E. Cook called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

**The following persons were present:** Eva Cook, Sandra Joudrey, Sherrene Delaney, Beth Collins, Howard Gibson, Andrea Whalen, Krista Emino, Madison Whalen, Drew Whalen and Larry Burgoyne

**The following person sent their regrets:** Sally Demone & Pam Demond

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION:** Moved by H. Gibson, seconded by B. Collins to approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

### **3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

**MOTION:** Moved by L. Burgoyne, seconded by A. Whalen to approve the agenda.

**CARRIED**

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

#### **4.1. Academic Integrity with Clubs/Teams/Organizations**

A discussion was had about the importance of having a policy for all extracurricular clubs and activities regarding behaviour and academic effort. S. Joudrey explained that there was a policy in the past with athletics but not for other organizations so the policy ended, as it seemed unfair. S. Joudrey expressed concerns about asking coaches to do more than they already do and also reminded the committee that many of our coaches are community coaches so monitoring academics and behaviour is difficult for them. B. Collins discussed that extracurricular activities are often what keep many students involved in school and that it would be difficult to create a blanket policy for all students; the committee members agreed. The committee agreed that student issues with academics/behaviours and extra curricular involvement have been and will be dealt with case-by-case and staff advisors will be the contact between the coach and the school for these matters.

#### **4.2. School Grounds**

The front of the school plans discussed during the May meeting did not happen. The Work-It grant work with the garden in the front of the school did happen. B. Collins said that she would ask SSRSB Operations about those front of school plans and would report on that at the next meeting.

#### **5. Financial Report**

The balance in our account is \$2195.41

#### **6. Correspondence**

no correspondence to review

#### **7. Chair Report**

E. Cook welcomed everyone back.

#### **8. Principal's Report**

*B. Collins reported that the year has started well. She has included a handout for the committee highlighting some of the things happening to date.*

##### **8.1 TAs**

We have hired two time card TA's to work with students (one is here for 5.5 hours a day and the other is here for 3.5 hours a day)

##### **8.2 Office Referral Data**

Data was distributed and discussed. It was noted that there have been referrals made to outside agencies such as mental health. B. Collins explained that this is positive move forward and added that the partnership with these agencies has been a success. She has included a list of the agencies in her principal report handout.

##### **8.3 Enrolment**

Currently we have 343 students; 27 of which are International students.

##### **8.4 Continuous School Improvement (CSI)**

Last year NGRHS completed the two year goal. Last May these goals were discussed and this improvement strategy program is now called Student Success Plan. With this plan comes new directives from the province and from the SSRSB; we now need to have three goals. One has to be literacy related, one has to be numeracy related and the third has to be a social/emotional goal. The plan must

be created by the end of October so this will be the focus of the professional development day in September.

### **8.5 Busing**

There was a change made to busing – now we have simultaneous pick ups so there is load at each school. It has cut off back on a lot of time for homeroom.

### **8.6 Extracurricular**

All soccer teams are up and running; we have a junior boys and a junior girls team as well as a senior girls and a senior boys team. Before school started this year, all coaches were in place for all of our sports teams this year! Volleyball teams are up and running; we have a junior girls team as well as a senior girls and senior boys team. We will also have a Badminton team this year. The athletic divisions have changed and we are now in division two, based on new enrolment categories.

## **9. Student Updates**

### **9.1 Seniors**

**9.1.1** September Dance: First dance went well; student attendance was over 200 students.

**9.1.3** Spirit Week next week. This year's student council has tried some new ideas to motivate students to participate.

**9.1.4** Grad Committees: they have started to form. There will be three this year: Grad Reception, Grad Trip and Safe Grad.

**9.1.5** Battle of Homerooms. Student's council has started a program to increase student engagement. Homerooms will receive points based on student participation throughout the year. There will be rewards along the way and a large reward for the top homerooms at the end of the year.

### **9.2 Juniors**

M. Whalen explained that juniors have enjoyed the new student engagement activities, especially the scavenger hunt. She did mention that students did not like doing the Terry Fox Run in the morning

## **10. International Student Update**

We currently have 27 international students this year from 14 different countries around the world. One student is in junior high and the rest are in senior high. Next month there will be a short term (eight weeks) Columbian group coming to

the south shore. These students will be junior high aged students and two teachers are coming with them as well. These teachers will be going from school to school while they are here and one of them will be at our school for a bit. We could have up to 7 students from that group coming here (4 are confirmed now). Mike O'Hearon is the staff liaison for this program and Jedrick Sheppard and Lori Mosher are the new student ambassadors (Drew Whalen and Michelle Walters are still helping out). All international students attended orientation last week for two days at White Point and E. Cook said it was a great two days. A discussion was had about the fact that teacher allotment doesn't take into account international student numbers. B. Collins expressed that it's in the spring we will register the international students in courses if they are confirmed. E. Cook said that some are confirmed by then, so that will be really helpful. This will help to determine sections needed and possible scheduling issues. E. Cook said that it is likely that there will be more students coming this February.

## **11. New Business**

### **11.1 Academic Achievement Night**

This was a very successful night where many student successes were celebrated; attendance was great. A. Whalen brought up a concern that there should be a division of highest average when it comes to recognition. Currently, there is one award given to a male and a female student from grades 7-12 with the highest average. A. Whalen recommended that we have junior highest and senior highest instead of just highest average. All committee members agreed. A discussion was had about whether or not we should give out an award for the highest average. It was also noted that the awards ceremony in September is a great start to a new school year and all agreed.

### **11.2. Class Sizes**

A discussion was had about the process of course selection last year (with the courses being pre-determined). This years schedule was created before courses were chosen (in the past, the courses and sections were created based on needs). S. Delaney explained that some classes are quite large and others are smaller and B. Collins discussed the role electives and specialty programs play when it comes to class sizes. A. Whalen expressed concerns about the course selection process from last year (L. Burgoyne also expressed these concerns). She stated that student's options seemed to be quite limited when the courses were already in a schedule before students made choices. E. Cook discussed that when students are taking a science route, there are more courses required so it becomes even more difficult. B. Collins said that it would be worthwhile to check with other schools of similar size to see how they schedule. She also

stated that scheduling is complex especially with crossover teachers and that she will be looking at scheduling when the time comes.

## **12. Elections**

Elections were held and all positions remain the same. E. Cook is the president, L. Burgoyne is the vice President, S. Delaney is the secretary. Terms are up for A. Whalen, S. Demone, S. Joudrey and S. Delaney and all members would like to stay.

## **13. Adjournment**

E. Cook moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm.

Next Meeting Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm in the library.

Minutes submitted by: S. Delaney