

## **03 OCTOBER 2024 6:00 PM**

### **Attendance**

Sean MacDonald, Alison Walker, Allyson MacKay -- Administration

Nkem Emezie-Ejinima, Sarah Jeans, Funmi Irabor - Parents

Vanessa Turner, Keith Demone, Peggy MacLean - Staff

Conor Amero, Semilore Olaoye – Students

Guests – Deborah Gilbert, Katie Brace

### **Last Meeting Follow-up**

- Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2024 previously done via email

### **New Business**

- SAC Membership for 2024-2025
  - Looking to increase the membership including having Junior High representative, and parents from all of the communities of our school
- SAC Agreement 2024-25 review
  - Will review the SAC Agreement once we have completed seeking new members for the SAC
- SAC Conference update
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- Bike Racks
  - At the beginning of the year the elementary students were using all of the bike racks that are currently on property.
  - Once the administration of the two buildings spoke, there are now bike racks available for the high school students who would like to use them.

- Crossing Guards/Flashing Lights
  - At the end of the day dismissal, there are a number of concerns about the space and traffic situation on Broad Street for the number of vehicles, buses, and students to navigate safely. A similar issue is occurring for the elementary side of the building during arrival in the mornings.
  - There are some parking spaces available in the lower parking lot which could be designated as visitor parking. Signage will be made to designate these spots. This should help with some of these issues.
    - It was also suggested that on top of signage we look at other strategies for making these spots more visible and clearer, for example painting the spots or numbering the spots.
  - There is also concern that there are no Crossing Guards located at these major intersections.
    - This issue has been brought forward to HRCE Operations and will be followed up on.
  - There was also a concern that there is parking available on the street on one or both sides of Broad Street.
    - This is a city issue, though the concern has been brought forward.
    - Could we request a meeting with the City Councilors to address these issues. Sarah Jean is going to look into this.
  - There are a number of safety concerns for students and drivers at these high-volume times. Students have been directed to not play in the basketball courts and to not walk through the bus loop. This for the most part is working.
    - The closing of the second loop as a designated Fire Lane has also contributed to some of these concerns.
- Communication with families
  - Website concerns – specific to the Athletic calendar – the issue was that individuals could not see the events on the calendar.
  - A concern was brought forward that the website should be used as the primary source of information rather than social media.
    - Social Media (Instagram, X) platforms tend to be the way information is disseminated to students.

- Could there be a way to link these posts more actively to the website to facilitate parents seeing and knowing the information.
    - HRCE has just updated the websites for all schools. This was just launched in the last couple of days. There is still some information and updates which need to take place over the next few weeks.
  - Absences
    - Information for how to report absences has been updated in the weekly memo and on the website. Information will be on the weekly memo for the remainder of the year. On the website there is a button on the “For Students and Families Page” to link to the information for reporting an absence.
    - Information on lates and early pick-ups is also updated in the weekly memo.
  - Cell phone policy feedback
    - Teachers and staff are reporting that students are more engaged in their learning on a regular basis.
    - Given our self-directed model in high school, the students have more time and access to their phones throughout the day. This has had a positive impact as well on cell phone policy adherence.
      - We are <10 suspensions to date. Some other high schools are reporting much larger numbers than this.
      - We also don’t have 75-minute periods like the other high schools.
      - Students report that they enjoy having the opportunity to select what they need to work on and when which is building more engagement with the work. Students also report being able to build study groups with peers on the same FLEX periods.
      - It has also provided an opportunity for teachers to see when they are stuck on an assignment, especially if they are spending more time on their phone rather than working.
    - In class, teachers do not spend a lot of time addressing students on their cell phones.
  - Impact of including grade 7 and 8 students
    - It has been an adjustment for the school.
    - A lot of the other high schools which are 7-12 schools often have much smaller populations.

- Being in a larger school, there have been different issues which have happened. Lunch time is a lot busier than last year – the grade 7 & 8s are a lot busier and need more supervision compared to the high school students. The plan to have students separated in the cafeteria is also not working well due to the number of students.
- Originally, we planned to have the grade 7 & 8s in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor wing. Unfortunately, with the increase in population, this has not been able to happen. However, the spaces used by the high school students for FLEX remain designated spaces for FLEX. The time where we see the majority of the overlap of high school and junior high school students is the transition from class to class.
- The main stairwell is the busiest place in the building at the beginning of the day, before and after lunch, the end of the day, and transition times between classes.
  - More training will be needed to help support students in understanding using 1 side of the stairwell.
- We now have 3 student monitors, who work the entire day, and there are also 2 lunch monitors.

### **Principal's Report**

- Fire drill, hold and secure drill, and lockdown drills have taken place. Following the first fire drill we learned that we need more space for our muster location.
- Ronald Lunn grade 8 ELA/SS, Julia Hardy grade 8 Math/Science, and a third still to be hired because this position has a core French component.
- Football is up and running this year as an Exhibition year. Other sports – Soccer, Cross Country, Baseball.
- The High School Club Fair was last week. Next week is Junior High School Club Fair.
- The Student Council is up and running.
- Security cameras are also being installed this week. Thank you to the SAC for writing a letter requesting these. We are receiving 360o cameras. We are also looking to have some type of vape sensor installed in/near our washroom areas.

- SSP goals continue from last year. This will be a focus of the upcoming PD Day on October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a Junior High dance coming up. RBC is coming to run the canteen, this will serve as a fundraiser for Athletics.
- We have also received sponsorship from another Orthodontic company. This sponsorship comes with a sign being placed in the gym.
- Also thank you to the SAC for supporting the gym logo on the wall.

### **Students' Report**

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### **Other Business**

- Curriculum Night and Changes to the Student Schedules – there are a lot of concerns in the community. SAC is concerned that teachers may feel the brunt of these concerns.
  - Messaging will be included in the Weekly Memo on Sunday that any concerns are to be directed to the Administration who will be in the main foyer area of the school on Curriculum night.
  - Perhaps an FAQ could also be developed around some of the concerns and issues the community may have.
  - Administration and Student Services have been working hard to minimize the number of disruptions to students with the changes to the schedules and the reconfiguration to the grade 8s and 9s.
  - Because many of our teachers teach both Junior high and High school courses. 17 of our teacher schedules changed due to the reconfiguration along with 3 new positions.
  - Gym – 5hrs/ cycle for the 26 Junior High homerooms. This is the largest issue we have in scheduling due to the limits in the number of students which can safely be in the gym at one time.
  - As a result, the schedule in its entirety needed to be redone to support the gym.

- We added a section of Math 10, Math Inquiry 10, African Canadian Studies.
- Also having a small pocket of grade 11s we had created a number of smaller single courses to support students having a broader range of course options.
- Next year with a larger number of students we will be closer to having teachers teach either High school or Junior High school.
- All teachers printed their grades at the end of the week, prior to the new schedule, to facilitate transferring student marks to new courses or different teachers. This eliminates the fear of lost learning time and opportunities which students have had for the last month.
- We want to ensure that we find the balance between providing the experiences and opportunities that both a Junior High and a High School offer their students. This new schedule allowed the school to get closer to that for the majority of our students.
- Clarifying that there is a single schedule for the entire building and not a Junior High schedule and a High School schedule. This may help the community understand the impact better.
- Affordable housing concerns – developers are building new buildings in the community. However, these units often have multi-generation families or multi-families due to the cost of the units. This is not considered in the projections provided to the city/province.

## **NEXT MEETING**