

Bell Park Academic Centre School Advisory Council

Date: March 25, 2025

1 . Attendance: Tara Rutledge (admin), Cathy McDonald Johnston (co-chair/ parent), Jeannine McDonald (community), Nyesha Sparks (co-chair/ parent), Amanda Hayre (secretary/ parent), Jennifer Harding (staff), Gina Dunn (staff), Mary Smith (community/ staff), Karen Bartlett (parent)

2. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement and African Nova Scotian statement

3. Call to order by Co-Chairs: Cathy and Nyesha at 6:31 pm. Approval of previous minutes: Approved by all. Reviewed agenda items.

4. Student success plan: Literacy, Math and wellness cycle 2 is completed next week, reflection will be conducted then.

Literacy: Teachers are working in small groups, connecting reading and writing. Focused on blending and segmenting words.

Math: Fact fluency, Tara Rutledge requested data on this from the teaching staff. Teachers are now aware of the gaps and where instruction should be focused.

Wellness: Teachers reviewed a data wall of students; they were asked to put a sticker on the pictures of students who they know very well. The students who had fewer stickers were flagged as needing connection from staff. There will be a student survey to ask the students if they feel like they have a go to person in the building.

The next cycle will begin in April, followed by a final reflection.

5. Review/update of Bylaws and Agreement

Tara shared the bylaw information and updated the portion under, Quorum: There must be at least 3 SAC members, 1 from each group must be present to have a meeting. The co-chairs will be into the school to sign the paperwork this week.

6. Principal's report

Bell Park Academic Centre has 262 students currently in the building, at the end of February with the primary enrollment being around 245 for September 2025. Staffing numbers will be given to the school in the coming weeks.

African Heritage Month was a busy month, and there was a lot of positive feedback from school and community members on how the school celebrated. The students and staff enjoyed a performance from Keonte Beals, Tara Rutledge has an autograph from him. In Art class, students are designing pins to win this autograph. There was a Home and School movie night,

this will be reviewed by H&S on how successful the event was and if this would be happening in the future. Some kinks will be reviewed from the committee on how it can be improved. This is one of the busiest times of the year with wrapping up this year while beginning to plan for the next school year.

7. SAC grant budget/ SAC spending: There were only 10 iPad cases (approximately \$30.00 each) needed to be ordered and not 20 as previously stated in the January meeting minutes. 15 air servers were purchased (approximately \$15.00 each) and the technology staff was around to set up the teachers with these new additions.

Sashes: Mary Smith is waiting to hear back from some companies of the cost, and she will update the SAC when she has more information. The end of the year, Wellness Day event was approved for funding, nothing has been purchased to date. Tara Rutledge will update the SAC on the total costs that have been spend at the next meeting.

8. SAC survey completed as a group to be submitted to HRCE. Each question was reviewed and discussed as a group. This was submitted.

9. Other business: no new business to discuss.

10. Next meeting: The next meeting (April) will be cancelled, and one will be added in June with an in person meeting at the school.

11. Important dates

April 3rd Parent Teacher interviews

April 7-11 Scholastic Book Fair

Easter April 18 & 21 no School

12: Meeting Dates for the year

Oct. 22th (Completed)

Nov. 19th (Virtual)

Jan. 21st (Virtual)

Mar. 18th moved to the 25th (Virtual)

April 15th (Moved to June)

May 20th (virtual)

June: final meeting would be in person

13. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm