

Hadley Junior High School & Philemon Wright High School Governing Boards
Joint Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
5:30PM to 7:00PM

Hadley Junior High School GB Members:

Marty Olson, Vice-Chair (parent)
Penny Colbourne, Secretary (parent)
Sarah Acheson (teacher)
Andrew Leach (teacher)
James Price (teacher)
Jen Christie (teacher)
Erin Millar (professional)
Abbey Karos (professional)
Bess Forrestall (Teacher)

Non-voting Members:

Dodie Payne, Principal
Correne Giles, Administrator

Regrets:

Melinda Vallillee, Chair (parent)
Kim Carlton, Parent Committee (parent)
Rachelle Lemire (parent)
Isabelle Richard (parent)
Kate Smith, Vice-Principal (non-voting member)

Absent without notice:

N/A

Guests:

Letitia Taylor
Christine Skladany
Chris Schaler

Philemon Wright High School GB Members:

Erin Connell, Chair (Parent Committee Rep)
Sarah Cox, Vice-Chair (parent)
Erin Gowriluk, Secretary (parent)
Siobhan Barr (parent)
Mike Avon (parent)
Nicholas Vincent (teacher)
Amanda Kemp (teacher)
Cameron Swann (teacher)
Adam Leclair (teacher)
Steve Beketa (teacher)
Chastity Schiemann (Student Rep)
Ashley Smith (professional)
Emilie Giacomelli (support staff)

Regrets:

Britta Nielsen (parent)
Anselme Nsoga (parent)

Absent without notice:

Amanda Barnes (professional)

ITEM	REF	PRESENTER	TIME	ACTION
OPENING BUSINESS				
Call to Order	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin C.	2 min	Welcome & meeting guidelines Erin C. called the meeting to order at 5:03PM
Roll Call	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin G.	2 min	Erin G took attendance HJHS does not have quorum so cannot pass any motions during this meeting.
Agenda	<i>Emailed</i>	Erin C.& Marty	2 min	Motion that the April 14, 2021 agenda be approved as presented. PWHS/20-21 #29: Adam LeClair, Emilie Giacomelli

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				Carried
GB Minutes	<i>Emailed</i>	Erin C. & Marty	2 min	Motion that the March 17, 2021 GB meeting minutes be approved as presented. PWHS/20-21 #30: Ashley Smith, Amanda Barnes Carried
VOICE OF THE PUBLIC				
Voice of the Public	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin C.	10 min	No items were brought forward for discussion.
STANDING REPORTS				
Principal/School Council	<i>Verbal</i>	Dodie	5 min	For information School Council for HJHS & PWHS met during the last PD Day. Planning focussed on extending the school year to June 23rd and preparing to deal with the heat in the building.
Parents Committee	<i>Verbal</i>	Kim & Erin C.	5 min	Meeting on March 22nd, 2021 • Presentation on WQSB Teacher Induction Program (mentorship program for new teachers). • Passed a motion on the allocation of Parents Committee. Decided that \$9000 of the \$12000 will be allocated this year: \$3000 to anti-racism, \$3000 to active rest stations, \$3000 to WQSB outdoor education program. • Launch of second EPCA newsletter on EPCA Facebook page.
SEAC	<i>Verbal</i>	L. Taylor (guest)	5 min	For information See attached report.
Students	<i>Verbal</i>	Chastity	5 min	Students have all been attending classes virtually. There is a general desire by most students to be back at school with their friends.
NEW BUSINESS				
PWHS GB vacancy	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin	5 min	For discussion & decision

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				Alice Birnbaum resigned her position on the PWHS Governing Board. PWHS will employ the same process as the one used by HJHS and put a call out to the parent community to see who would be interested.
COVID update	<i>Verbal</i>	Dodie	5 min	For information When students were in the building they were doing a very good job of observing the protocols. A virtual general assembly was held to prepare students to return to home study. When students return to school there will be a new mask protocol. All teachers have to wear a mask the only exception being if wearing one interferes with their teaching. Cleaners have been sent into the school to clean while the students have been away.
Operational budget and grants	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	10 min	For information School fees. Paper letters have gone out to remind parents to pay their school fees. Healthy Activities grant is now being used to support students with tutoring. This covered tutoring for 124 students. Nutritional Grant has allowed school to offer healthy meals to any student who wants one. Students who want a lunch only need to ask.
Technology	<i>Verbal</i>	Dodie	10 min	For information An email will be sent to all parents at HJHS or PWHS regarding resources related to tech management at home. Media Smarts is a website that includes resources for parents and teachers including how parents can help manage their children's screen time. The Pause Campaign offers similar resources for the entire family.

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				811 is also a resources for all Quebecers, adults and children who need to access support services.
2021-22 Calendar	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	5 min	For information
Discipline policy	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	15 min	For discussion & decision Setting clear behavioural expectations as outlined in the discipline policy. It is clear which behaviours have consequences attached to them. Clear roles for teachers and admin have been added. Attendance policies have been updated as there has been a high rate of absenteeism. These new policies relate largely to extensive absences and how to keep students on track so they don't fall behind. Vaping Policy for HJHS and PWHS has been adjusted so that it is in line with the WQSB. Motion to approve the Discipline Policy for 2021/22. PWHS/20-21 #31: Steven Beketa, Mike Avon. Carried
CLOSING				
Next Meeting: May 12	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin C.	1 min	No forward agenda items
Adjournment	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin C. & Marty	1 min	Motion that the April 14, 2021 GB meeting be adjourned. PWHS/20-21 #32: Adam LeClair, Amanda Barnes. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:34PM ET

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NOTES ON THE
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 14, 2021

At the March 29, 2021 meeting of SEAC, the Director General Mike Dubeau was our special guest. After having pre-briefed Melinda and myself the week before, he came to share with all of SEAC about the Board's follow up on the question of bullying and violence involving students with special needs. He confirmed that, currently, because this specific information has not been collected by the schools, the Board is unable to generate a report which would give insight on the issue. I believe some schools were approached to try to get what data they had, but in the end, the DG concluded that any retrospective report of information would be incomplete and misleading. He also reconfirmed in conversation with the Ombudsman that the one case of bullying that was handled last year did not involve a student with special needs. However, it was noted that as it stands right now, if a parent or student does not volunteer information about whether there is an IEP and for what reason, there is no way for the Ombudsman to know this because he does not (and should not for privacy reasons) have access to any data base that would permit him to confirm if the situation involved a student with an IEP.

In the pre-briefing meeting, which also included the Director of Complementary Services, it was decided to move forward looking at the lack of information as regrettable, but also as an opportunity. The DG informed us that the Board so happens to be looking to upgrade its systems to track bullying, and therefore, going forward information can be collected at the school level in a way that should make it easy to both monitor in real time and to report out all the factors related to an incident of bullying or violence and a student's full profile. In addition, we discussed how an initial family or student contact with the Ombudsman could provide the Board with a view not only on the narrow question of how many cases involve students with special needs, but also whether parents are feeling sufficiently informed and involved in the IEP process and in their child's overall progress. A mechanism or procedure implanted in his office could also offer an opportunity for the Ombudsman to refer families to the DG or the Director of Complementary Services or even to SEAC resources for further information that could help resolve misunderstandings or fill gaps in information should that be the concern. This will be an ongoing effort and SEAC will be following up on the Board's progress in realizing these objectives. The DG indicated that he would be happy to return to SEAC to keep us informed.

In last month's report to Governing Board, it was mentioned that SEAC wished to increase its profile so as to be more accessible and supportive to parents of students with special needs. To that end we have submitted to the WQSB Communications Department information about SEAC's membership and mandate to be included under the Governance tab on the Board website. We will shortly begin the process of content creation and information gathering to be included on our own webpage linked to the Resources tab on the Board website.

With regard to Autism Awareness month, SEAC has submitted an informative article to be featured on the Board's Facebook page that can serve as a resource to parents. Also, for the first time ever, SEAC will be hosting a free online event on April 29 starting at 7 p.m. It is entitled, "A Parent's Toolkit: Autism Awareness, Advocacy and Self-Care." We have invited the Family Support Coordinator from Autism Canada to come to speak and will offer other resources to

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parents, as well as an opportunity to connect with one another. A poster with a link to the event will be distributed soon.

The next meeting of SEAC scheduled for April 26 will be focused on the IEP process, featuring a presentation by the Director of Complementary Services. SEAC members will discuss how to make the process better, meaning more accessible and understandable for parents. I anticipate that a subcommittee may be struck to work on an IEP Toolkit to be shared with parents directly and on SEAC's new webpage. Any suggestions that you may have about what should be included are welcome; just forward them to me or Melinda.

Respectfully submitted,
Letitia Taylor
EDHAA Parent Commissioner
WQSB