

Hadley Junior High School & Philemon Wright High School Governing Boards

Joint Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

5:30PM to 7:00PM

Hadley Junior High School GB Members:

Isabelle Richard
Chev Pryce
Jane Bouchard
Karen Wyatt
Jen Carbonell
Crystal-Lee Beausoleil
Sarah Kane
Bess Forrestall
Erin Millar
Emilie Giacomelli
Steve Swenson
Amber Dorion

Philemon Wright High School GB Members:

Anselme Nsoga
Erin Connell
Amrit Bains
Julie Kennedy
Amanda Kemp
Colin Bunge
Katie Clow
Mario Cuglietta
Adam Leclair
Erin Gowriluk
Cameron Swann
Furaha-Safi Karubara
Isabella Boucher

Non-voting Members:

Dodie Payne, Principal
Kate Smith, Vice-Principal
Correne Giles, Administrator
James Price, Vice-Principal

Regrets:

Andrew Leach

Regrets:

Bronia Sussmann
Sarah Acheson
Britta Nielsen

Absent without notice:

Guests:

Letitia Taylor
Natasha Ellsworth

Absent without notice:

Daphne Jurgens

ITEM	REF	PRESENTER	TIME	ACTION
OPENING BUSINESS				
Call to Order	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin C.	2 min	Welcome, land acknowledgement & meeting guidelines
Roll Call	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin G.	2 min	Attendance
Agenda	<i>Emailed</i>	Erin C. & Isabelle	2 min	Request to add "outdoor activities" to New Business Motion: That the December 15, 2021 agenda be approved as presented. PWHS/21-22#16: Colin Bunge, Adam LeClair. Carried

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				HJHS/21-22#15: Jane Bouchard, Crystal Beausoleil. Carried
GB Minutes	<i>Emailed</i>	Erin C. & Isabelle	2 min	Motion: That the November 17, 2021 minutes be approved as presented: PWHS/21-22#17: Erin Gowriluk, Colin Bunge. Carried HJHS/21-22#16: Emilie Giacomelli, Jenn Carbonell. Carried
STANDING REPORTS				
School Council	<i>Verbal</i>	Dodie	5 min	Mindfulness workshop for grade 7 and 8 students has been approved and will commence at the end of January 2022. This will be funded by the Wellness Grant. Pyramid of Interventions has been discussed and it was determined that related responses/supports need to be delivered more consistently.
Parents Committee	<i>Verbal</i>	Karen & Erin	5 min	No updates. Next meeting January 17 th , 2022. No meeting since the Governing Board met in November.
SEAC	<i>Verbal</i>	L. Taylor (guest)	5 min	For information. See attached.
Students	<i>Verbal</i>	Isabella & Furaha	5 min	Students who arrive at the school before 8:45 have to wait outside. Students have expressed to the Student Government representatives that this is challenging and uncomfortable during the winter months. Representatives have requested that the Board consider allowing students to enter the school at 8:20 to gather in the 5 main/large areas in the school. Supervision is a challenge. Some teachers have volunteered to provide supervision. Administration will work with the Student Representatives and put a call out to teachers who might be willing to volunteer their time.

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NEW BUSINESS				
School mission and voice	Verbal	Dodie	5 min	Governing Board is reminded to consider the school mission and the broader student population (beyond their own students) when contemplating decisions.
Operational budget & grants	Emailed	Dodie	10 min	School fees are up by comparison to this time last year. Likely due to the fact that fees can now be paid on the portal. Parents who have any concerns about the fee should contact the school to make payment arrangements.
Winter Festival 2022	Emailed	Mario	5 min	For approval Outdoor education; 4 more evening sessions for rock climbing every second Thursday starting on the first day back to school in January. January 19th is the next PD day. Mr. Bunge would like to provide free training for up to 20 students to participate in an ice rescue program. Winter camping in Gatineau Park. February 25th Mt. St. Marie Cross Country Ski Day. Motion: To approve the proposed outdoor education program for grades 10 and 11. PWHS/21-22#18: Erin Gowriluk and Katie Clow. Carried. WinterFest February 18th (offsite) a number of different activities for students in both schools. Motion: To approve WinterFest. PWHS/21-22#19: Adam LeClair, Colin Bunge. Carried

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				HJHS/21-22#17: Jane Bouchard, Jennifer Carbonell. Carried Carried.
Health Program Visit	<i>Verbal</i>	Katie	5 min	For approval Opportunity for grade 11 students interested in healthcare professions to shadow CEGEP students. Motion to approve the Health Program Visits: PWHS/21-22#20: Mario Cuglietta, Adam LeClair. Carried
Educational project	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	10 min	For approval Ms. Payne provided an overview of the Project which was shared as part of the board meeting pkg. Motion to approve the Educational Project PWHS/21-22#21: Colin Bunge, Adam LeClair. Carried HJHS/21-22#18: Erin Millar, Emilie Giacomelli. Carried
Emergency Preparedness Plan	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	10 min	For approval Motion to approve the Emergency Preparedness Plan: PWHS/21-22#22: Adam LeClair, Colin Bunge. Carried HJHS/21-22#19: Jane Bouchard, Sarah Kane. Carried
Anti-Bullying/Anti-Violence plan	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	10 min	Tabled for January Meeting
School organization	<i>Verbal</i>	Dodie	10 min	This item can be removed from the agenda

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(enrolment, PD plans, Indigenous Advisory Council)				
CLOSING				
Next Meeting: Jan. 26	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin C.	1 min	Agenda items?
Adjournment	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin C. & Isabelle	1 min	Motion: That the December 15, 2021 GB meeting be adjourned: PWHS/21-22#23: Colin Bunge, Adam LeClair. Carried HJHS/21-22#24: Emilie Giacomelli, Sarah Kane. Carried

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NOTES ON THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 15, 2021

The SEAC, while off to a belated start, is underway with much enthusiasm and a full agenda. We met in November and December this year so far and we have six more meetings planned for 2022. There are 16 parents and 4 Board employees, as well as the Director of Complementary Services around the table contributing to the ideas and initiatives that SEAC wishes to accomplish this year. Our new Chairperson, Meaghan Dufour, whose child attends PETES, is serving on SEAC for her third year now; our new Vice-Chair, Jessica Fortier, who is new to SEAC, has a student at Onslow Elementary.

SEAC's Communications sub-committee was busy even over the summer break, having designed and delivered a website with information and materials aimed at helping parents to advocate effectively for their children with special needs and to navigate the school system successfully. The website address is seac-westernquebec.ca; we encourage you to take a look around, subscribe to receive updates and event notifications, and contribute to parent surveys. Please share within your parent networks. We will be updating the site regularly.

In addition to the Communications sub-committee, we established three other sub-committees to help facilitate the work of SEAC this year. Those include the Events sub-committee, the Procedures sub-committee, and a sub-committee to tackle a special project related to the Complaints Procedure. This latter group will be working on a review of the current complaints process in light of the particular needs of students with special needs and their families and will also work on the development of a mechanism and procedures to operationalize SEAC's mandate to advise on the implementation of a student's IEP.

I do want to inform you about a related matter that will affect all students, not only those with special needs. As you may be aware already, last Spring formation of a Board level administrative committee to review the Complaints Procedure contained in WQSB's Bylaw 18 was initiated by the Director General Mike Dubeau. He invited the Chair of SEAC to participate in this review process. Regrettably, as of this month this initiative has been put on hold. The Council of Commissioners was informed about the introduction by the CAQ of a new proposed law, Bill 9, which would replace in part and revise in part the complaints procedures of all service centres and school boards in Quebec. It will certainly have an impact on all students and parents. Suffice it to say for now that the draft is on the fast track to adoption with little concern being expressed by the opposition in Quebec.

A significant point to highlight is that the Quebec government's proposed revamping of the system is in specific response to complaints of parents in the French system. The QESBA (which represents all 9 English school boards in the province) reportedly asserted in its discussions with the Ministry of Education that the complaints procedure seemed only to be problematic in the French system and that all was going well in the English school boards. The Minister affirmed that this was his impression, also. However, every issue that was on the agenda to be addressed by the now postponed WQSB administrative committee is now being addressed by Bill 9. Whether it is lack of information about the existence of a complaints process or the lack of a consistent and formal notification to parents of the steps to follow or lack of timeliness, all of those issues were identified as problems within WQSB's system last Spring.

As SEAC begins this year, it is a time of transition. A time of locating strength and courage to use our collective voice, of casting and taking hold of a vision for a SEAC that is defining its leadership role and occupying its lane as it moves to serve the special education community. This will be my last year on SEAC, having served four out of the five years of my daughter's high school journey. My earnest and sincere ambition is to leave behind a lasting legacy of a SEAC that recognizes its own worth and dignity and power as an advocate for students with special education needs and their families. Also, as the WQSB strives to fulfill its mission to instruct, socialize and qualify students, I hope to have helped to convince the Board level Administration of the significant value added of partnering with SEAC as an institution within the system of education. With so many talented and experienced members, SEAC has much to offer by carrying out its mandate of giving sound and informed advice to the school board that supports special needs students in realizing their full potential. It all rests on the investments we choose to make in building a

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collaborative, productive and mutually respectful relationship between SEAC and the WQSB. We plan to have a great year!

Respectfully submitted,

Letitia Taylor

EHDAA Parent Commissioner (SEAC)

WQSB