

Hadley Junior High School & Philemon Wright High School Governing Boards
Joint Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 16, 2022
5:30PM to 7:00PM

Hadley Junior High School GB Members:

Isabelle Richard
 Karen Wyatt
 Jen Carbonell
 Crystal-Lee Beausoleil
 Amber Dorion
 Jane Bouchard
 Andrew Leach
 Bess Forrestall

Philemon Wright High School GB Members:

Erin Connell
 Julie Kennedy
 Erin Gowriluk
 Bronia Sussmann
 Daphne Jurgens
 Amrit Bains
 Amanda Kemp
 Katie Clow
 Mario Cuglietta
 Adam Leclair
 Cameron Swann
 Furaha-Safi Karubara
 Isabella Boucher

Non-voting Members:

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

Regrets:

Erin Millar

Regrets:

Britta Nielsen

Absent without notice:

Sarah Kane
 Chev Pryce
 Steve Swenson

Absent without notice:

Anselme Nsoga
 Colin Bunge

Guests:

Letitia Taylor

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>		2 min	Attendance
Agenda	<i>Emailed</i>	Erin C. & Isabelle	2 min	Motion to approve the February 16, 2022 agenda as presented. PWHS/21-22 #28: Adam Leclair, Daphne Jurgens. Carried. HJHS/21-22 #29: Jane Bouchard, Amber Dorion. Carried.
GB Minutes	<i>Emailed</i>	Erin C. & Isabelle	2 min	Motion to approve the January 26, 2022 minutes as presented.

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				PWHS/21-22 #29: Bronia Sussman, Katie Clow. Carried. HJHS/21-22 #30: Jen Carbonell, Amber Dorion. Carried.
STANDING REPORTS				
School Council	<i>Verbal</i>	Dodie	5 min	Parking is a focus w. renovations since increased enrolment has led to a shortage of parking spots. Hadley changing rooms also to be renovated.
Parents Committee	<i>Verbal</i>	Karen & Erin	5 min	No report as the committee has not met since the last HJHS/PWHS governing board meeting. Next meeting on Monday, February 21st.
SEAC	<i>Verbal</i>	L. Taylor (guest)	5 min	See attached report
Students	<i>Verbal</i>	Isabella & Furaha	5 min	Prom fundraising: bake sale and candy guessing jars to raise money for prom. Motion to allow the aforementioned activities to take place at the school to raise funds for prom. PWHS/21-22 #30: Mario Cuglietta, Adam LeClair. Carried. HJHS/21-22 #31: Andre Leech, Jennifer Carbonell. Carried. Update: Black Student Association. Black History Month activities are underway and student engagement is high. Events will take place this week with funds that were received by a school grant.
NEW BUSINESS				
Home & School Association	<i>Verbal</i>	Isabelle, Jen, Amber	10 min	Motion will be brought forward at the next Governing Board meeting to approve the establishment of a Home and School Association at HJHS and PWHS.

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				Isabelle, Jen and Amber asked to prepare a one-page background document on what a Home and School Association can accomplish so that the Board is better informed.
Operational Budget	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	10 min	Operational budget was presented. A Home and School Association, if established, could help raise additional funds for capital expenditures.
Grant Update	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	5 min	For approval Grants were presented to the Governing Board. Motion to approve the list of grants included in the governing board packaged and as presented to the Governing Board: PWHS/21-22 #31: Mario Cuglietta, Veronia Sussman. Carried. HJHS/21-22 #32: Bess Forestall, Andrew Leach. Carried.
Course selection	<i>Verbal</i>	Dodie	10 min	Course selection material is going home with students this week.
Subject time allocation	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	10 min	PWHS is offering a dance election for students in grade 10 and 11. Electives are introduced in grade 10. Suggestion to email parents with a reminder to work with their children to make these choices. A link to the related guidance resources could be included to inform that discussion. Enriche French program cannot keep up with student demand due in large part to a lack of qualified French teachers. Motion to approve the subject time allocation as presented. PWHS/21-22 #32: Adam Leclair, Katie Clow. Carried.

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				HJHS/2122 #33: Jane Bouchard, Amber Dorion. Carried.
COVID Update	<i>Verbal</i>	Dodie	5 min	Covid-related restrictions are being lifted gradually. More parents and guests are now being permitted to enter the school.
CLOSING				
Next Meeting: March 9	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin C. & Isabelle	1 min	Agenda items? • Home and School Association
Adjournment	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin C. & Isabelle	1 min	Motion to adjourn the February 16, 2022 GB meeting. PWHS/21-22 #33: Adam Leclair, Daphne Jurgens. Carried HJHS/21-22 #34: Crystal-Lee Beausoleil, Andrew Leach. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:49PM

NOTES ON THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING February 16, 2022

The last meeting of SEAC on January 24 was the first of a two-part exercise in drafting recommendations to the Resource Allocation Committee (RAC), which makes yearly recommendations about the allocation of revenues. The Education Act requires the RAC to engage in an annual consultation exercise before making its recommendations, and SEAC is a part of that process.

The main focus of the meeting last month was to hear a financial report related to the organization of services for students with special needs presented jointly by Lisa Falasconi, Director of Complementary Services and the new Director of the Finance Department, Martine Lupien. Following on the presentation of last year, SEAC had asked for a more detailed report on the outcomes of our previous recommendations, which included among other things more training for staff on topics related to special needs students, as well as increased investments and attention to necessary adaptations of services to students with special needs in the online environment related to covid. We essentially asked for a line of sight on what had been accomplished with regard to those goals before making additional ones this year.

The primary objective of this annual presentation is to give SEAC a broad brushstroke understanding of the financial parameters and constraints affecting the provision of support services to students with special needs. The highlights of the report as always are to explain the following:

- The basic principle of funding is that support to students equals staffing, i.e., resource and classroom teachers, support staff and professionals.

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- The Ministry provides what is referred to as base and additional funding for staffing.
- Base funding for staffing is calculated on enrollment and student population data.
- Additional funding for staffing is funded by grants that address specific needs and are directed for specific use.

With regard to our specific questions about the impact or outcome of our recommendations on the allocation of resources, the Directors made clear that they were not able to provide many answers. In effect, the Director of Finance conducts a high-level accounting exercise to make sure funds are spent generally as intended by the Ministry of Education. Thus, she stated that she did not have specific information about how money allocated was spent, for instance on how many hours of training on a specific topic for what number of staff members. In fact, these decisions and the accountability for them rests with individual schools. This means that for all intents and purposes, the kinds of specific recommendations that SEAC has been making are not directed at the right table; and in fact, the RAC itself does not have the power to determine how dollars are specifically spent in schools, but rather articulates a broad vision and principles that it suggests that schools adopt. We also learned that due to contractual agreements with teachers and staff, which are negotiated with the provincial government, there are tables within schools at which parents have no line of sight or voice that make decisions about things like priorities and funding for training.

The only possible avenue of influence or accountability is, therefore, here at Governing Boards which approve and receive reports on the school budget. Thus, it is incumbent on parents at this table to be equipped and intentional about asking in depth questions and making specific recommendations before voting about how and where money is being spent to address students' educational needs. Your inquiries have the most consequential impact and influence.

The next SEAC meeting, at which RAC recommendations for the 2022-23 school year will be drafted, is planned for February 23. While this exercise will be more philosophical in nature, I will make a point of bringing to Governing Board next month and in subsequent months the practical questions and concerns that SEAC discerns are relevant with regard to meeting the specific needs of our exceptional students.

Respectfully submitted,

Letitia Taylor, EHDA Parent Commissioner