

Hadley Junior High School & Philemon Wright High School Governing Boards

Joint Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 26th 2022

5:30PM to 7:00PM

Hadley Junior High School GB Members:

Isabelle Richard
Karen Wyatt
Jen Carbonell
Crystal-Lee Beausoleil
Sarah Kane
Erin Millar
Andrew Leach
Amber Dorion
Chev Pryce

Non-voting Members:

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

Regrets:

Jane Bouchard
Emilie Giacomelli

Absent without notice:

Bess Forrestall
Steve Swenson
James Price, Vice-Principal

Guests:

Letitia Taylor
Kevin Shaar

Philemon Wright High School GB Members:

Erin Connell
Julie Kennedy
Amanda Kemp
Colin Bunge
Katie Clow
Mario Cuglietta
Adam Leclair
Cameron Swann
Bronia Sussmann
Britta Nielsen
Daphne Jurgens
Furaha-Safi Karubara
Isabella Boucher

Regrets:

Erin Gowriluk
Sarah Acheson
Amrit Bains

Absent without notice:

Anselme Nsoga

ITEM	REF	PRESENTER	TIME	ACTION
OPENING BUSINESS				
Call to Order	<i>Verbal</i>	Isabelle R	2 min	Welcome, land acknowledgement & meeting guidelines
Roll Call	<i>Verbal</i>	Karen Wyatt	2 min	Attendance
Agenda	<i>Emailed</i>	Erin C. & Isabelle	2 min	Motion: That the January 26th 2022 agenda be approved as presented. HJHS/21-22 #25: Crystal Beausoleil, Erin Millar. Carried. PWHS/21-22 #24: Adam Leclair, Katie Clow. Carried.

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GB Minutes	<i>Emailed</i>	Erin C. & Isabelle	2 min	Request to add Amber Dorion to GB members present Motion: That the December 15th 2021 minutes be approved as presented: HJHS/21-22 #26: Erin Millar, Jen Carbonell. Carried. PWHS/21-22 #25: Bronia Sussman, Mario Cuglietta. Carried.
STANDING REPORTS				
School Council	<i>Verbal</i>	Dodie	5 min	Debrief
Parents Committee	<i>Verbal</i>	Karen & Julie	5 min	Communications sub-committee would like to use WQSB app to promote WQSB. Discussion on Bill 9 (provincial ombudsman). SEAC has a new parent-caregiver resources website: https://seac-westernquebec.ca/ WQSB has a new Chairperson: Wayne Daly
SEAC	<i>Verbal</i>	L. Taylor (guest)	5 min	See report from Dec 15 th 2021 meeting below
Students	<i>Verbal</i>	Isabella & Furaha	5 min	COVID restriction changes hard for students, but happy to be back at school. Student government has challenges to have meetings with COVID restrictions. QR code for anti-bullying link, see below, students would like to have posted in bathrooms and gym changing rooms for privacy when scanning codes
NEW BUSINESS				
Anti-Bullying/Anti-Violence plan	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	10 min	An MSteam exists for this committee, to manage this living document. QR Code will be put in bathrooms for privacy. QR code form emailed directly and anonymously to Dodie for action/investigation. Motion: To approve Anti-Bullying/Anti-Violence plan

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				HJHS/21-22 #27: Sarah Kane, Erin Millar. Carried. PWHS/21-22 #26: Mario Cuglietta, Daphne Jurgens. Carried.
Operational budget	<i>Emailed</i>	Dodie	5 min	Enrolment up, but operational budge has not increased. Dodie Payne to collect proposals for spending from teacher/departments, will assess, and then assign funds. Extra-curricular grant can be used for capital purchases.
COVID update * Budget * New measures * Contingency plan		Dodie	5 min	Restrictions lifting Jan 31 st so extra-curriculars will be permitted, but masks continue at all times. Tournaments still TBC. Contingency plan to manage absences due to Omicron developed with staff input. Staff sharing responsibility and working together to continue class curriculum during teacher absences.
Indigenous Advisory Council	<i>Verbal</i>	Dodie		Indigenous student alumni running the Bear Lodge initiative and lunch activities. Developing Indigenous Affairs document and action plan for staff and students. Awareness course for staff on 8 Feb, PD day.
Fundraising	<i>Verbal</i>	Isabelle		GB would like to build a fundraising committee, like a Home and School Association. Isabelle, Jennifer, and Amber to explore further. Process to establish fundraising potential tbc.
CLOSING				
Next Meeting: Feb 16th	<i>Verbal</i>	Isabelle	1 min	Agenda items?
Adjournment	<i>Verbal</i>	Erin C. & Isabelle	1 min	Motion: That the January 26th 2022 GB meeting be adjourned at 7:18pm. HJHS/21-22 #28: Crystal Beausoleil, Jen Carbonell. Carried PWHS/21-22 #27: Cameron Swann, Bronia Sussman. 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