

Kensington / Kinkora Family of Schools District Advisory Council

Members 2018-19: Cavelle Andrews (Queen Elizabeth), Janette MacQueen (Somerset), Joel Newrick (Kensington High student), Katie Pearce (Kinkora High student), Harrison Duffy (Kinkora High student), Bev Campbell (PEI HSF rep), Karen Mayne (alternate) and Janet Needham-Payne (Kinkora High), Patricia Cole (Kensington Intermediate), Krista Murphy (Amherst Cove), Abby Christopher (Kensington High student), Mary MacDonald-Pickering (PEI HSF rep)

April 15th, 2018, Queen Elizabeth Elementary School

Guest: Dale Sabeau, PSB Board member

Discussions and Outcomes

Membership

- Term ends for DAC members were reviewed.
- Members were reminded to fill their vacancies and send the new membership information to the Engagement Officer.
- In cases where no new member is in place, the Engagement Officer will work with that local Home and School and Principal to identify a member.

Elected School Board Resolution

- The response from the Minister in October 2018 indicated that the government at that time “does not have any plans to amend the Education Act (but will) continue to review ways in which we can strengthen the current model...”
- A member suggested that the DAC re-issue its former statement in support of a return to Elected School Boards.

Zoning

Enforcement

- It was noted that no one was assigned the action to send an email to the Minister advising the enforcement of current school zone boundaries.
- The membership was requested to look back and see if this advice had been sent.

Transfer Requests

- Parents can apply for students to be transferred from overpopulated schools to similarly or less-populated schools, but not likely (except for extraordinary circumstances) to be accepted for a transfer to an equally or over-populated school.
- When students move from an under-populated school, it can have a domino effect of reducing overall school programs and services, as well as the potential for more split classes added.

- Lack of childcare in some school zones could be a contributing factor for families choosing not to settle in that area.
- Lack of local childcare would not be grounds for a successful application to have your child attend an out of zone school.
- There is no provincial Early Learning Centre in Borden. It was suggested that this could be an area of DAC and community advocacy.

Out of Zone attendance

- Students can be granted permission to attend TOSH for specific programs not offered at KISH, including French Immersion as well as some trades courses.
- Some transfer full time and some attend part time.
- A member wondered if these approvals get audited, to ensure that students are taking the courses for which they are granted transfer.
- If, during the school year, the conditions of transfer approval are no longer met, that student returns to the school they are zoned for the following year.
 - **UPDATE: Information on transfer criteria and process was sent to the membership.**
 - **Exception criteria include programming, special needs, address, mental health and capacity.**

Maps

- The PSB website has a new transportation portal to access school information anytime.
- You can view zone maps, find out school eligibility based on civic addresses and see bus routes.
- The Department website does not have any Island school zone maps posted.
 - **UPDATE: The maps will live on the PSB website only via the new portal there. Department web traffic will be re-directed to the PSB website.**
 - **Here is the direct link: <https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/psb/bus-stop-search-2/>**

Staffing Model

- HR staff have indicated that the Fall meeting would be a better time to come and talk to the DAC about the staffing process and model.

Updates

- Updates were given on the School Food Project, Engage PEI, and Common Assessment report, Report Cards, School Infrastructure Review and Early Interventions.
 - **Elizabeth Costa, Leader of Achievement and Accountability, will attend a future meeting to talk about the Assessment Model and how the data is used.**

January 15th, 2019, Kinkora Regional High School

Guest: Erin Johnston, Assistant Director, Public Schools Branch

Discussion and Outcomes

Elected School Board

- Framework for an elected Board was outlined in the resolution presented at the PEIHSF AGM in April 2018.
- The PEIHSF rep for Kinkora will find it and share with the DAC.
- She will also check with the PEIHSF to see if there was a response to the resolution from any part of the Dept./Branch/Board.
- If so, she will share it with the DAC. If not, she will ask the PEIHSF to request a response.

Zoning

- Members are concerned that any study could lead to re-zoning that would negatively impact their school communities.
- There was concern that a Category 2 study would be required if a Category 1 study impacted more than 20% of the school population.
- Members do not want a Category 2 study at this time.
- There was discussion about the current boundary maps that were distributed.
- Members spoke of families that are sending students out of zone, and that is impacting class sizes across the District.
- A letter will be drafted to advise the Minister to direct the PSB to enforce current zoning boundaries.
- Members spoke about a lack of access to the school zone maps online, and how that can be a barrier for parents in choosing where to live.
- Zoning information can be accessed directly from the PSB via telephone, but parents should also be able to access that information online.
 - **UPDATE: A request has been made to make the zoning maps available online at the PSB and Department websites.**

School Staffing

- A new tool was created last year to enhance Principal's request for staffing.
- It examines class composition and was designed to better meet the needs of students.
- There were questions about how EAs are allocated, including how to access mid-year.
- EAs are assigned to schools, not specific students, and assignments and schedules can change over the school year.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

- A student member gave an update on the Bring Your Own Device working group meeting he attended.
- Bring Your Own Device is being rolled out this Spring to Island schools, based on individual school readiness.
- He mentioned some of the positives and negatives discussed – not all students have access to a device, not all parents will allow their child to have a device.
- He noted that there will be access to school owned devices if that is the case.
- He also talked about plans for classroom management.
- Teachers will model a RED, YELLOW, GREEN format for usage. RED=devices away, YELLOW=only if necessary, GREEN=full usage allowed.

- Device usage is for school and class work only, and firewalls will be installed to ensure that students are not accessing inappropriate content.

PsychEd Assessments

- Increased access and shorter wait time to PsychEd assessments have recently been announced.
- The mandate is a one year wait by September 2020.
- A member spoke about the option for using private health coverage to cover the cost of an assessment.

October 15th, 2018, Queen Elizabeth Elementary School

Discussion and Outcomes

Elected School Board

- This continues to be a priority for this DAC.
- Members expressed the desire to have a local trustee they could call with their concerns.
- Members shared that they personally had never contacted a current Board member directly with their concerns.
- Discussion followed on their ideal structure, makeup, roles, etc. for an elected school Board.
- Members will go back to their locals and to communities and engage people in this discussion.
 - **UPDATE: The PEIHSF resolution passed at the April 2018 AGM is the model supported.**

Small School Staffing

- It was reported that no school in the District lost any staff this year, and that some made small gains.
- Members would like more information about how the staffing allocation model is applied, especially with the small school lens.
- Members feel that resources and staffing should follow a needs based model, not just a school population model.
 - **UPDATE: a HR staff person will be asked to attend a DAC meeting to inform members about staffing models.**

Librarians

- The staffing discussion broadened to include the equitable allocation of librarians to schools.
- It was reported that QEES library is run by volunteers. Parents are seeing lower reading literacy rates in Grade 6, and feel this is tied to lack of librarian in the early grades at that school.
- Members would like some information on how librarians are allocated.

Exemptions

- Student members expressed that while they see the need for assessments, it could relieve their test anxiety if the provincial common assessment in Math was not worth so much of their final grade (30%).
- They also expressed how the school environment on test day adds to their stress.
- Some parent members spoke about the reality of post-secondary education and how one test or paper can be your mark for the term, or how you may have to write professional exams as an adult, and that these high-stakes assessments can prepare them for university.
- Members were encouraged to share their thoughts about student assessment with RMJ (the company overseeing the assessment review).
- There was discussion about the data generated from assessments and how it is used.
- Members would like Dept assessment staff person to come to a meeting and give context to assessments, results, what happens with the data, etc.
 - **UPDATE: Elizabeth Costa, Manager of Assessment and Accountability, will attend a DAC meeting to discuss assessments.**

Zoning.

- This District has 2 zones and a dual zone.
- Dual zone families can choose which FOS to send their child.
- Members would like to have zoning enforced, allowing for some flexibility to address individual family needs.
- Their goal is to increase the student populations in their District schools.
- The DAC will continue to discuss this at meetings, with the goal of framing advice to the Minister on this priority.

Cannabis

- Cannabis talk kits were circulated.
- Members were encouraged to attend the TOSH Cannabis Info session on Monday, Oct 29th.

Report Card Review

- Members were encouraged to reply to Tammy Hubley-Little with any input they have in the framework for Report card review.