

April 11, 2017

Parker Grimmer attended the meeting and discussed the new organizational structure of PSB and the Department. He acknowledged the work of the DACs and indicated his support for the work moving forward and the role he would play in that process. He made reference to the DAC reps ads forward thinking and encouraged everyone to persevere through this process. The key topics that were discussed were:

- 1-class composition and class size are issues that need to be addressed in schools
- 2-There needs to be art, music and drama focus for children in schools
- 3-Discussion of the 5 course schedule possibilities
- 4-Organizational chart and the changes under the new model as well as the strategic plan being developed

Discussion points in the remainder of the meeting:

How can we ensure that all teachers use technology to support their teaching and their children's learning?

There is an expectation that ALL teachers use the technology to support their program delivery.

Teacher librarians are essential and are embedded partners in supporting learning in schools? How can this be determined with decreases in librarian allocations per school?

In terms of increasing art, drama and music opportunities for students-what can communities do to support this in their community school?

There needs to be a broader discussion on the demands of homework on students. How much is being assigned? How much time does a student spend on homework each night? More data on this is needed to discuss the stress that this causes in the lives of those students who struggle and for those who have other interests and extra-curricular activities outside of school.

February 15, 2017

Guest speaker Julia Gaudet, Director of Student Services, was a guest. She talked about the support services available in our system. She presented an informative power point presentation which encouraged much discussion and questions around the current model.

Other discussion items:

LPAC discussion paper was discussed and -it was suggested that a Google classroom be created for ongoing communication and as a vehicle to respond to this and other documents or discussions areas.

Parker Grimmer, Director of Public Schools Branch and Dave Cormier, Education Development Officer will attend the next meeting on April 11, 2017 and discuss how the work of the DAC will be supported at the district and department in the future.

January 19, 2017 at East Wiltshire

DAC members expressed frustration that, despite the number of meetings to date, repeated discussions continue on identification of priorities and determining where our efforts should be focussed. Below are our DAC's priorities, along with solutions and outcomes.

It is our position that, together, we need to invest in our children's education to fully support their academic success and well-being.

Priority: Class Size and Composition

Solutions:

- Appropriate FTEs
- Appropriate funding
- Appropriate support

Outcomes:

- Better teacher-student ratio
- Education Assistant support
- Resource and guidance support
- More support for extra-curricular activities
- Better learning for all

Priority: Access to Mental Health Resources and Family and Child Services

Solutions:

- Decentralize resources
- Appropriate FTEs
- Guidance support for students
- Strengthen relationships and collaborate more with agencies

Outcomes:

- Better coping strategies for students
- Prevention, rather than intervention
- Healthier families and communities
- Better learning for all

November 8, 2016, Meeting at East Wiltshire

Discussion items:

- A curriculum handbook for parents so they can know what is being taught in school and can enable them to support the students better.
- Accessing tutorials online and the use of technology to communicate with the school and with the child's teacher
- Students issues discussed were the merits of more information on teacher blogs. Also raised the issue of bullying. A student representative noted that there are other issues that students are experiencing such as bullying. He stated that students are not communicating bullying incidents to their parents. There are random initiatives to raise awareness of bullying in schools. There is a definite need for character development programs and support programs for students to develop the tools and strategies on how to deal with bullying.
- Parker Grimmer, Director of Public Schools, will be requested to attend our next meeting to provide DAC members with an understanding of the new organizational structure as well as an opportunity to discuss operational issues (staffing, facilities, transportation, resource support, etc.). Parker will be meeting the Bluefield DAC group on April 11, 2017.

Julia Gaudet, Director of Student Services, will be asked to attend our next meeting on Feb. 15th.

- To examine and review the current inclusion model.
- To examine learning disabilities which includes the need for support and resources to help students who would benefit from additional assistance.
- To ensure there is continuous emphasis on music, art and drama.
- Curriculum delivery needs to accommodate different learning styles. Program delivery needs to be stretched to be more flexible.
- To improve class size and composition-student outcomes will improve if there are smaller classes and there is more support for students who would benefit from additional assistance.

October 13, 2016 at East Wiltshire

Bob Andrews met with Bluefield DAC reps in his role as Schools Reorganization Project Manager. Mr. Andrews explained the process of the upcoming consultation plan and as well as the data that will be used for the review of schools. He collected data from three demographic sources and after reviewing the data for the Bluefield Family of Schools, his recommendation for Bluefield is status quo. The reason for this is because all the schools in this family of schools are over 70 per cent. For those family of schools with 60 per cent or below capacity utilization, he has recommended a Category 2 study.

There are five steps in the consultation plan. The public has been invited to participate to provide viable options as it pertains to the school review process. Recommendations will then be made by Mr. Andrews and presented to the Board of Directors after hearing from the public.

Consultations will be carried out by public meetings, web based submissions, presentations, submitted reports. This meeting was highly participative and participants had many questions about the process.

1-Educational factors

2-Demographic factors

3-Facility factors

4-Financial factors

5-Transportation factors

6-Parental and Community Factors

District Advisory Council Members



School Representatives

Bluefield High: Karen Clare

Central Queens Elementary: Ray Anne Frizzell

East Wiltshire Intermediate: Maxine Mallett

Eliot River Elementary: Ricardo Angel

Englewood: Emily Smith

Gulf Shore Consolidated: Sandra Skeffington

Westwood Primary: Stephen Letner

Student Representatives

Bluefield High: Abby Sentner

Bluefield High: Donald DeWolfe

Regional Director of PEI Home and School Federation: Windsor Wight