

Thursday, March 30, 2017 at TOSH

This meeting included the following discussion points:

- Class size and composition-discussion of class size and composition.
- Resource support for struggling students.

- Mental health –more resources in the schools are needed including more counsellors.
- Playground equipment- currently a community responsibility.
- First aid training in schools for parents.
- Breakfast and lunch programs need to have more consistent availability to all schools.
- Homework issue was discussed-the variances of expectations-too little to too much. The impact of having much homework to do in the evening creating a stressor on both child and parents.
- Library funding needs to be discussed.
- Equal opportunity from school to school in areas of Lunch programs, sports programs, IB programs.

February 13th, 2017 at Elm Street Elementary in Summerside

(This meeting was cancelled due to poor weather)

November 24th, 2016 at Summerside Intermediate

Pat noted that we are here to discuss suggestions that were received from feedback sheets and how to move forward in future meetings. We need to get specific on issues that we should focus on since our voices are being heard. Students are encouraged to participate and give ideas.

This is a critical time and are encouraged to participate and give feedback on the Better Learning for All website.

What specific areas would you like to work on? A couple of DACs are working on class composition. Hopefully, this group can meet independently and work on issues they have identified. We can even look at other modes of other jurisdictions and make recommendations. We need to narrow down on specifics. Ideas of specifics such as availability of curriculum handbooks that are parents friendly. What are some of the support for parents?

The issues that this DAC wants to focus on include;

- Mental health issues.
- Class composition.

- Fifth block/period to give more choices to French Immersion.
- Music, art and drama.
- Anxiety problems (something should be built in everyday life to help these kids deal with issues). Bring in agencies to deal with these problems.

Parker Grimmer thanked this DAC for their work and stated that the system really appreciates what the DAC is doing even if it takes 2 years to see their suggestions being implemented. This body was created with a purpose in mind.

Changes were made this past summer in order to make improvements and create a better model to bring the different educational structures together. The Public Schools Branch is now integrated into the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture.

The Public Schools Branch is focused on:

- People services and accountability in the areas of corporate and finance issues.
- HR – teachers and staff and how they are trained, hired and supported.
- Policies that guide us need to be written, read, understood and discussed.
- Student services – resource teachers, special needs students.

Part of Parker's responsibilities include listening and considering input from the advisory councils in establishing priorities for and with the Public School Board.

Questions:

One member wondered if there was consideration to bring all the DACs in all families of schools together to listen to what other schools and family of schools are going through and what issues other DACs are focussing on.

Exam exemption

The issue of exam exemptions was brought up. Parker stated that you have to qualify to be exempted from exams. This was piloted for a couple of years in some schools. Based on school attendance, you could be exempted from exams. It is a known fact that exams are not a good way of doing assessment.

5 period schedule

This seems to be a theme of most DACs. Parker stated that that this could be a possibility. It is slowly coming but there is promise. Department of Education has to approve it and the teachers have to want it.

A question was raised if the Department of Education has ever considered a third option (4.5 option instead of a 5 block period)?

Budget allocation

Parker explained that we probably allocate per student like the rest of the Maritimes. We are relatively the same as everybody else. We need to know what the costs are per student. We will do the recommendations first for the school review and then we will come up with the costs per student. Will the costs per student include extra-curricular activities such as the playground? I am not sure.

One member pointed out that the boys and girls takes about \$15,000. Imagine what we can do with that? He also reiterated that there is need to know what the cost per student is since a lot of teachers are paying for a lot of things out of pockets.

Any Other Business

Pat pointed that other DACs worked on the 5 factors that may be considered during the school review process. Members were encouraged to work on the 5 factors independently and come up with statement of principles for each factor.

There were suggestions to have grade 10 and 11 students in the DAC so they can sit in for at least 2 years. Recommendations were made that for the end of the year meeting, the new reps should be part of the meeting. The students should be grade 10 and 12 and the parent rep to ensure that they have students in their school so they can be DAC members for at least 2 years.

For the January meeting, having a perfect attendance would be good so we can start focussing on specific issues.

DAC members were encouraged to meet early in January independently in order to come up with what things/suggestions they would like to work on. The goal of that meeting should be to walk away with some key statements. Lauren Reeves (TOSH Student Rep) volunteered to chair the meeting.

October 20th, 2016 at Summerside Intermediate

CALL TO ORDER:

Pat Campbell called the meeting to order at 6.30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. She explained that this is not a regular meeting for DAC but a meeting to discuss and possibly give feedback for the school review process that is going on in some family of schools. Handouts were distributed and Pat explained that the booklet includes the school review information. She introduced Bob Andrews the Schools Reorganization Project Manager.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Andrews explained that this meeting is different from other family of school's DAC meeting. This is because this family of school is not under review.

Mr. Andrews explained that his job is to address both overcrowding and underutilization issues in all the families of schools. He has collected data from three demographic sources and after reviewing the data for this family of school, his recommendation for the Three Oaks Family is status quo. The reason for this is because all the schools in this family of schools are over 70% utilization. For those families of schools with 60 per cent or below capacity utilization, he is recommending a Category II study. Mr. Andrews stated that he will discuss his data at length and the Consultation Plan during the public meeting.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS:

- Will there be an impact to our family of school by picking up students from other families?
- If you are doing rezoning, would it not impact the whole school family?
- What does capacity mean?
- Is there consideration that students from schools under review will go to schools not under review?
- Will a change in enrolment in one school put the whole family of schools under review?
- Where can we find this data?
- It looks like you've been working on this for a while. Why has it just been released to the public?
- It's definitely to the student's benefits that's why these issues are being looked at?
- Do we have money to fix these problems?
- Will we see an increase in equitable distribution of teachers/staff? It's not fair for some teachers in some schools to have 12 kids in their class while in another school we have 27.
- Is there an ideal cost per square foot per student?
- What is the ideal target for this/goals? Are we trying to make a resolution with no goals? How do you guide if you don't tell them what the target is?
- When do they project the changes will take effect?

CONCLUSION:

- Pat thanked everyone for attending and stated that anyone can make a suggestion. All the information is online on the website Better Learning for All at [princeedwardisland.ca/betterlearningforall\(link is external\)](http://princeedwardisland.ca/betterlearningforall(link is external)).

District Advisory Council Members



School Representatives

Sara Courtney – Parkside Elementary,
Major Stewart – Greenfield Elementary,
Julie Hogan – Elm Street Elementary,
Jacqueline Lecky – Miscouche Consolidated,
Marilyn Campbell – Athena Consolidated
Leigh Dymont – TOSH

Student Representatives

Lauren Reeves – TOSH
Robert Larsen – TOSH

Others

Regional Director of PEI Home and School Federation: Virginia Doyle