

April 20, 2017 at Westisle Composite High School

Discussion:

- How will we engage the community members/representatives in our discussions as a DAC?
- Invite community members, representatives to our meetings.
- Rotate the meetings at different schools and have those communities represented at the meetings.
- Invite Home & School members, mayor and council, MLA, etc. to the meetings when rotating the meetings. For example, if the DAC meeting is at Alberton Elementary invite Alberton Home & School to the meeting.
- Sub-committees can be formed on issues if need be.
- Ask for a public report monthly from government to know the numbers of students waiting for OT, Speech, Assessments, etc.

Focus topics/Priorities:

Resource allocations

- Can the DAC's give feedback on reports before they are released to the public? For example, the School Support Review.
- Mental Health, Hub model, Interagency, school funding based on the number of students.

High school curriculum requirements

- Five courses vs. four courses
- Westisle Family of School could be a pilot?
- Feedback on CEO and Gym – What are the benefits of these courses?
- French Immersion requirements? Do you need to have all French Immersion courses in order to take the DELF test? Who pays for the test if a child stops taking French Immersion?

Transportation

- Length of bus routes for students
- Late bussing from Westisle/Hernewood/Callaghan
- Survey for parents, teachers and students from May 1 – 19th. People are encouraged to fill out the survey.

Public School Branch Board

- Can there be a representative from each family of school? Therefore there would be 9 people on the board.

For information purposes, can the DAC be added to a distribution list so that we are able to get feedback from the Principals' Council?

Kelly Shea-Rayner was nominated as chair and accepted.

March 16, 2017 at Westisle Composite High

Julia Gaudet, Director of Student Services, Public Schools Branch, was guest speaker.

She presented information on the current model of inclusion and staffing allocation with a power point presentation. The DAC representatives had an opportunity to engage in a discussion of many themes around this area and asked many questions for clarification.

For the remainder of the meeting, there were discussions around the need to determine a chair and recorder position. This item would be put forward for next meeting.

February 21, 2017 at Westisle Composite High

Briefings were arranged for the District Advisory Councils on the school review recommendations with Bob Andrews, School Reorganization Project Manager.

The opportunity was provided to discuss why different recommendations were made and to provide an opportunity to ask specific questions. The Board of Directors Harvey MacEwen, Pat Mella and Susan Willis were also in attendance to receive any comments that the DAC representatives wanted to make on the recommendations.

November 22, 2016 at Westisle Composite High School

Guest speaker, Parker Grimmer, Director of Public Schools Branch

- Following handouts were distributed: Department of Education, Early Learning & Culture Organizational Chart, Public Schools Branch Organizational Chart, Zoning map for Westisle family of schools, Director of Public Schools Branch responsibilities, Board of Governance Policy (School Change), Education Act (Board of Directors), Questions and answers
- Westisle family of schools should be very proud of their buildings, staff, students, etc.

It was acknowledged that the 4 main highlights that the Westisle DAC were focusing on are: Transportation, Integrated Services, Assessments, High School Choice (5th block).

School Review Policy

http://www.gov.pe.ca/edu/psb/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/GP_14_School_Cha...(link is external)

- Director may conduct a Review of Schools once every five years or more frequently on his/her initiative. The review of schools include an overview of the nature of the challenges faced by each school which is being reviewed.
- Hoping the outcome will be a positive change.
- There is no decision in mind or made at this time.
- Utilization Bar in prior school review report for Westisle Family was set at 60% (which came from Principals) and was used throughout the other Families of Schools under review.
- Education Act was explained on the 3 persons Board of Directors (Bill No. 26).
- The main focus for the DAC will be the School Review since Westisle Family is one of the families under review.

Discussion for remainder of meeting:

- The DAC would like to see direct communication with the Deputy Minister on a regular basis.
- What is the actual role of the DAC? The issue of the committee not feeling as if they are in the “know” with huge announcements (ie: new positions being filled, positions not being filled, school review, etc.)
- When public approaches a committee member we don’t feel confident with an answer that they are looking for because we don’t know.
- DAC meet 3 times a year, is that enough? How often does the other committees meet?
- Quote that explains what we want as a committee for our students “Safe, happy and caring school environment that is fair and makes sense”

Transportation Issues...Challenges in rural areas

- There needs to a huge overhaul with the Transportation Department...late buses for rural areas (students are missing out on sports teams, school groups, extra-support (academically), etc.
- Students are on a bus for too long in some areas (some students are on a bus up to 170 minutes a day)
- There was a request for more individuals to help make a decision on winter weather (delays or closure of schools)
- Some schools are having difficulty to find spare drivers, therefore students are sometimes later getting home (a permanent driver is having to do double runs)
- Should be an incentive for an individual to enroll in the Bus Driver Course (ie: requirement should not be a grade 12.
- Branch/Transportation should guarantee a percentage of the course cost, \$3,000.00, back to the driver under certain agreements.
- Replace bus drivers when they retire instead of consolidating routes.

Integrated/Interagency Services

- The wait time for a student to be tested/assessed is unacceptable (3 year waiting list).
- The Branch has 1.8 vacant position under Psychology Services.
- Government needs to put more resources in schools (ie: Public Health, etc.)
- Resolution at the next Home & School meeting in regards to Student Services...support for teachers with recommendations.

October 11th, 2016 at Hernewood Intermediate

Bob Andrews met with Westisle 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 Westisle Family of Schools, his recommendation was for a Category 2 study with 60 per cent or below capacity utilization.

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 notices, 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

Westisle District Advisory Council Members



Front row (left to right): Kendra Silliker, Jennifer Rozell, Kelly Shea Rayner and Sheri Roberts. Back row: Katie MacLennan, Andy Doran, Spencer Noye, Pat Campbell, Kelly Herget, Jackie Harris and Carlene Grigg

School Representatives

Kendra Silliker, O'Leary Elementary, Teacher at O'Leary Elementary. Priority: For all students to have a chance at a strong education whether it be through services provided at the school, technology in the classroom, or looking at class composition.

Sheri Roberts, Westisle Composite, Learning Manager at Holland College, West Prince Campus. Priority: I want to be engaged in a process that will ensure that students are getting a good quality of education in our Island schools, so they will be prepared for post-secondary education when they graduate.

Andy Doran, Ellerslie Elementary, Teacher, father of two. Priority: To see services maximized so that money can be spent on real issues such as more front-line teachers, less government interference (provincial assessments), and top-quality curriculum.

Teena Callaghan, Mother of four, President of Tignish Home and School. Priority: More services for our rural schools, better class/teacher ratios to allow a better education system, and smaller class sizes.

Tish Shea, Mother of four. Priority: More resources for our teachers and kids. I'd like to see more staff and extra resources for kids struggling for math and reading.

Jennifer Rozell, Alberton Elementary, Teacher

Kelly Shea Rayner, Hernewood Intermediate

Katie MacLennan, Bloomfield Elementary

Doug Lyon, M.E. Callaghan

Student Representative

Calvin Murray, Westisle student rep

Chandler Gard, Westisle student rep

Others

Andrea Richard, PEI Home and School Federation regional director