

**SIR CHARLES TUPPER SCHOOL
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Tues, Apr 5th, 2016 @ 6pm
Library ~ 1930 Cambridge Street, Halifax, N.S
Agenda**

1) Call to Order and Welcome

- a. Attendees: Tom, Patricia, Katie, Victoria, Christine, Sarah, Chris, Nicole, and guests: Kim Connolly, Cindy Littlefair

2) Approval of Minutes /Additions to the Agenda

3) Discussion with Cindy Littlefair

- a. Cindy took us through the role of a board member. They meet every Wednesday night during the school year and the big board meeting at the end of every month. Total of 50,000 kids in HRSB and a budget of ½ billion \$. Her newsletters are meant to let people know what's going on and to kick-start conversations. She is also chair of the governance committee. Each board member is meant to be the voice of his/her constituency. She is best used for things that are more strategic in nature. She is given an honorarium (\$9600/year) for the role.
- b. Department of Ed has given the board \$100,000 to support the Syrian refugees students, of which there are approx. 300.

4) Principal/Vice-Principal updates

- a. Patricia shared with Cindy that Dan Sheehan joined us recently to discuss some of the concerns we had with the exterior and building. Since that time, the stairs/railings have been fixed, Windows are getting fixed and we have consistent heating in the gym!
- b. Focus now is on the numbers for next year. We have 17 primary students registered to date. We won't accept any out-of-areas until June. We'll be down to 172 for next year at this point. Peter Pan play is at the end of the month and students/staff are working hard to prepare for it.

5) Business Arising from Mar 2016

a. Provincial Assessment Results

- i. Tom took us through the assessment results for Grade 4 and 6. The results were very positive and were higher than the board average on all attributes measured. There were also no surprises in that the children that would have scored lower were all previously identified as requiring extra support. We need to keep in mind that the results are all relative given our base is only 24 students.
- ii. Christine mentioned that the board has recognized the decline in the writing scores over the last few years and they are working on different plans. Cindy mentioned an interesting fact that First Nations kids scored very high on oral skills.

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- iii. Chris asked whether the plans for next year's assessment have been announced as there is talk of them changing things up a little in how they are doing the assessment. Patricia/Cindy have not heard an update on it yet.

b. Playground Update

- i. Nicole provided an update on the fundraising efforts. We are currently at \$65,000 (\$30k of which has come from the City). Next step is to figure out the specific requirements that we would like included. They have also been in touch with other schools. Tom mentioned that the province used to kick-in as well but that program has been suspended. Funds from the school play admission will go towards the playground. Also reaching out to businesses and applying to grants. Some of them want to see a visual of what the plan will include so they know where their dollars are going.

6) New Business

a.

b.

7) Motion to Adjourn

8) Next meeting: Tues May 3rd @ 6pm