



NRCS SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Minutes October 06, 2016

**TIME: 2:35pm**

**ATTENDANCE:** Principal: Ms. Willow  
Teachers: Mr MacNeil, Mrs. Brown  
Support Staff: Valerie Lenihan-absent  
Community Rep: Diane Webber  
H &S Rep: Wendy Harvey  
Parent Reps: Sheena Isenor, Jennifer Burgess  
Student Reps: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES:** May 10, 2016

Moved by: Jennifer  
Seconded by: Diane  
To accept minutes as read.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. **Race, Culture & Human Rights (RCH) Information-SSRSB**—handout provided (& attached) to outline what they do, in essence if human rights are violated this is a guideline to follow. It has been presented to & reviewed by the teachers & students of NRCS. The RCH advisor for NRCS is, Sarah Gates, who is also to provide support for administrators and teachers.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

- 1) **Installation of Stage railing-update**-this is on work order and in the superintendent's report of upcoming repairs
- 2) **Replacement of Stage Curtains**-new stage curtains have been installed as of June 26, 2016. A big thank you to Valerie and Diane for overseeing this.
- 3) **Community School/School by necessity**-the NR Partnership group is working on a presentation to council regarding making NRCS a "community school" for the community to continue to gain functional access to NRCS regardless of the principal at large. The classification of school by necessity has many definitions across the USA & Canada. It would be great to have this embedded into legislature, and also to have a clearer definition based on varied parameters including "small & isolated".

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

1. **Student Success Plan**-attached. Outlining goals that staff has set for NRCS students based on data received from ie. prior assessments, that recognize weaknesses and outline how to improve them. All voices are represented in this report= student/teacher/administrators.
2. **Principal's letter**- attached. Highlights:
  - The "PATHS" program is integrated into our teaching day this year from P-6
  - Grades 2-6 participated in the "Growing Green Festival" in Bridgewater, learning the value of being active in the outdoors and sustaining our natural environment
  - Teachers have formed a "Literacy Team" at NRCS to examine ways to engage our youth in reading outside the school day
3. **Superintendent's Report**-attached

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **New Executive for 2016/17-** Wendy Harvey accepted to stay on as chairperson and Sheena Isenor accepted to stay on as secretary.
2. **Training in PATHS for support staff-**Diane had wondered if all staff/support personnel would have training in PATHS. There is a process to this, however, it will be looked into with help for this.
3. **Parental Concerns-**a number of parents have raised concerns of having a combination of three grades in one room, to see if all age groups were being challenged but also learning issues addressed. There have also been a number of parents wondering if French immersion or an “enhanced” French program would ever be available at NRCS. Ms Willow has stated that due to Dept of Education policy staffing numbers are based on student numbers, and times for French programming are mandated by the DOE.
4. **Outdoor Learning Space-** there is a group of parents interested in having an outdoor learning space, and wondering, if there was help offered, would teachers utilize this space and would they be allowed to offer their help building it. Ms Willow and the teachers present like the idea and would utilize this space, and would welcome help from the community to build it. They could provide ideas of what it could look like and where to put it on the school grounds, ie Ms Willow would prefer to have a stationary wood platform with wooden benches that would go along with their “safe and inclusive learning environment goal: To improve cultural competency by embedding Mi'kmaq culture into daily learning and teaching” and asked us to resource Keji website for an example of this.
5. **H&S representative-**will address this at a future meeting, to review &/or change in the bi-laws the mandate to have a H&S rep on the executive.
6. **Letter to the DOE-**was suggested we draft a letter to the DOE stating “why rural schools matter”, that we shouldn't have to make sacrifices and to advocate for what you can not always see at a glance.

**STUDENT REPORT: (from student rep)-deferred**

**NEXT MEETING:            Nov. 17, 2016**

**ADJOURNED:            4:15 pm**