School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13, 2026
Next Meeting: November 10, 2026 (Hybrid)

Chair: Emily Draper

SAC email: hrce-sac-rkh@gnspes.ca

1. Attendance

Present:

- Jackie Lesser
- Rosie Bona
- Emily Draper
- Charanya Krishnakumar
- Sarah Parker

Regrets: Ian Jerrott

Membership Updates:

- Jackie Lesser will look into recruiting an additional community member.
- The school is seeking an additional teacher representative.
- Emily Draper and Ashley are the parent representatives.
- Ms. Charanya Krishnakumar is the staff representative.

SAC Executive:

- **President:** Emily Draper
- **Chair:** Rosie Bona
- **Secretary:** Sarah Parker

May's Meeting Minutes were approved

2. SAC Policies and Guidelines

The Council reviewed the purpose and responsibilities of the School Advisory Council.

- Rosie Bona will share the SAC bylaws with members.
- The SAC will meet monthly to discuss student achievement, school practices, policies, and initiatives.
- The Council will explore strategies to support extracurricular activities and projects around the school and grounds.
- SAC members will have input into decisions regarding the allocation and spending of SAC funds.
- An annual report will be submitted to the province at the end of the school year.

3. Review of May 2026 Meeting Minutes

The Council reviewed updates and initiatives discussed at the previous meeting.

Outdoor Committee and School Grounds

- **School grounds painting:** Michael Burt completed painting work on the school grounds in the spring.
- **Gaga ball pit:** The Gaga ball pit was installed last week. Although the SAC had agreed to contribute $4,000, Councillor Erin Morse ultimately provided the $4,000 to purchase it. Classes are currently rotating through the pit during lunch, with a formal schedule to be developed. Students are enjoying the new addition.
- **Soccer field resodding:** Funding from the PSA, SAC, and school has secured approval from HRCE and HRM to resod the soccer field. Greg Watson, a local landscaper and school parent, will complete the work at an estimated cost of $16,000.

Other topics discussed at the May meeting included members who were moving on, school soccer and basketball teams, and the significant success of the school musical.

4. SAC Budget and Previous Expenditures

The Council discussed the current budget and previous spending priorities.

- **2026–2027 SAC budget:** Approximately $5,520, based on $5,000 per school plus $1 per student.

- Funds previously allocated by the SAC toward the Gaga ball pit will now be directed toward the soccer field resodding project, as the Gaga ball pit was funded by Councillor Erin Morse.
- Last year's SAC funds were used to donate money toward the book fair.
- The SAC purchased a class set of the novel *The Next Generation* last year, at an approximate cost of $1,500.

5. Principal's Report

School Enrolment and Staffing

- The school currently has approximately 508 students across 23 classes:
    - 12 English classes
    - 11 French Immersion classes
- No classes are over capacity.
- Enrolment numbers have remained stable, and no class reconfiguration has been necessary.
- Learning Centre (LC) enrolment has increased. An additional 50% LC teacher position has been added, filled by Bev Anthony.
- An additional 80% Educational Program Assistant (EPA) position is expected to be filled this week.

Grade 5 Leadership Committee

The Grade 5 Leadership Committee has begun its work. Students are supporting several initiatives, including:

- Special events
- Lunch buddies
- Outdoor buddies
- Canteen activities

Terry Fox Assembly and Run

The school held a successful Terry Fox assembly and run in late September.

- Students learned about Terry Fox and his contributions as a Canadian hero.
- The school raised a significant amount of money.
- Two runs were held.

- A representative from the Terry Fox Foundation visited the school to share Terry Fox's story with students.

Mi'kmaq Heritage Month Assembly

An assembly is scheduled for October 15 to recognize Mi'kmaq Heritage Month. Topics will include:

- Truth and Reconciliation
- Treaty Day
- The contributions of Indigenous individuals

The assembly will also showcase student work completed as part of their learning on these topics.

6. Hot Lunch Program and Food Waste

The Council discussed concerns regarding the quality of the hot lunch program and the amount of food being wasted.

- Feedback about the quality of the food has generally not been positive.
- Significant food waste has been observed.
- The Council discussed whether it could advocate for improvements to the program.

Suggestion: Some schools are using printed slips stating, “I didn't like my lunch today, please don't order it again.” The SAC discussed piloting this approach in selected classes, with teachers or lunch buddies placing the slips in students' lunch bags.

The Council also discussed the use of green bins. Although green bins have been tried, additional food waste around the school has contributed to increased mouse activity.

Follow-up: The hot lunch program, food waste, and potential solutions will be revisited at the November meeting.

7. Grade 3 Provincial Assessment Results

- Grade 3 provincial assessment results have been received.
- Parents and teachers of current Grade 4 students will receive the results on October 14.
- The SAC will review general trends and patterns in the results at the November meeting.
- The Council discussed the provincial assessment's 1–4 achievement scale.

8. Student Success Plan (SSP)

The Principal reviewed the school's key Student Success Plan priorities.

Mathematics

- Continue to focus on improving students' fact fluency.

Literacy

- Improve students' reading and writing skills.
- Strengthen writing instruction, identified as an area of particular concern provincially.

Well-being

- Ensure students feel safe, experience a sense of belonging, and know their voices are heard.

9. School Behaviour Matrix, Code of Conduct, Mission and Vision

The Principal explained the purpose of the school behaviour matrix, which outlines expected student behaviours in different school settings.

Examples include:

- Walking in the hallways.
- Disposing of paper towels in the garbage after using the washroom.

These expectations are reviewed daily through school announcements. Improvements in student behaviour have been observed.

The school will provide the SAC with a copy of the behaviour matrix. The school's Mission and Vision Statement will also be shared and discussed at the next meeting.

10. Items for the November Meeting

The following topics will be included on the agenda for November 10, 2026:

1. **Hot Lunch Program:** Discuss food quality, student feedback, and ways to reduce food waste.

2. **Recycling and Food Waste:** Explore practical ways the school community can improve recycling and reduce waste.
3. **Provincial Assessment Results:** Review general trends and patterns from the previous year's provincial assessments.
4. **School Behaviour Matrix:** Review and discuss the school's behaviour expectations.
5. **Mission and Vision Statement:** Review and discuss the school's Mission and Vision Statement.

11. Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Person(s)
Share the SAC bylaws with members.	Rosie Bona
Explore recruiting an additional community member.	Jackie Lesser
Recruit an additional teacher representative.	School administration
Provide the SAC with a copy of the school behaviour matrix.	School administration
Share the school's Mission and Vision Statement.	School administration
Review provincial assessment results and identify general trends.	SAC members

Revisit hot lunch quality, food waste, and recycling initiatives.	SAC members
Circulate the meeting minutes and agenda one day before the next meeting.	School administration

12. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Date: November 10, 2026
Format: Online

The school will circulate the meeting minutes and agenda one day before the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.