

Harold T. Barrett-Home of the Bulldogs

SAC Minutes

Monday, January 24 , 2022
6:00pm (via zoom)

In Attendance: Ivan Skeete, Donna Olsen, Micah MacIsaac, Lori Purcell, Melissa Hunt, Lisa Blackburn, Caitlin Wardrope, and Jacqueline Weston

Regrets: Paula Reid, April Morrison

Item #1 - Water bottle drinks in the hallway:

- After hearing some concerns from some parents and staff, Ivan decided to begin the new year by requiring students to take drinks from their water bottles in the hallway. This move was to reinforce proper mask wearing in the classroom and prevent people from using “taking a drink” as an excuse for a mask break. He hoped that consistent mask wearing in the classroom would make folks more comfortable returning to school.
- Some classrooms were configured in a way that students could drink from their water bottles in a designated area (away from the rest of the students). This was permitted.
- Kids were asked to get permission from their teacher first—to prevent multiple students going to the hall at the same time
- Ivan shared during a virtual assembly that students with medical conditions would be exempt
- This arrangement was going to be revisited in two weeks
- There were several parents that phoned/emailed the school to voice their disagreement with this new rule. Reseason given were: medical, too shy or anxious to ask permission, not necessary and too many covid rules
- After one week, staff noticed an improvement in proper mask wearing
- Ivan said that he is willing to try allowing the students to stay in class to drink water, but by lifting their mask (instead of unhooking the straps from the ears), taking a drink and then pulling their mask back down. His original plan was to wait two weeks and the SAC advised to stick with that plan
- On Jan 31st, the students will be given the option of lifting their mask, while in class, to take a drink.

Item #2 – Driveway

- There are two issues with our driveway
 1. It is uneven and full of potholes and needs to be redone
 2. During certain snow, rain, freeze weather cycles the hill can become slippery and ice, slush and water begins to accumulate at the bottom of the driveway.
- There have been many concerns, about safety and vehicle damage, brought forward from staff, parents, students and bus drivers.
- Ivan and the caretaker placed calls to the HRCE, the contractor and HRM. Parents also contacted the HRCE and local politicians.
- On Friday, January 21, the HRCE’s Director of Operation Services came to the school and walked the school grounds with Ivan and the contractor to see the trouble spots. She gave the contractor the go-ahead to salt/gravel and plow as needed, and recognized that this would cost more money.

- The director also met with HRM and the city said that the bottom of the driveway was not their responsibility, so the HRCE is going to address it going forward.
- She said that the potholes would be filled at the bottom of the hill (weather permitting) and that she'd see what she could do about getting the driveway redone.
- Ivan is optimistic that with increased snow removal and salting, the icy build up at the bottom of the driveway will improve. The potholes getting filled is a good temporary measure, and having the director advocate for a new driveway is encouraging.

Next meeting date

- Feb 23, 2022 at 6:00pm