

Prospect Road Elementary School Advisory Council Agreement

The purpose of this school advisory council agreement is to establish the terms of reference for the partnership between the Prospect Road Elementary (PRES) School Advisory Council, Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE), and the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) to operate a School Advisory Council (SAC) at the school level.

Effective date and review of the agreement

The agreement begins when signed by all parties. The agreement shall be reviewed annually by the SAC before June 30 of each year. Any agreed-upon revisions can be made at that time and submitted to the HRCE and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for consideration, to become effective upon approval of all partners.

Structure of the council

The Advisory Council shall include the following members:

- the principal, who is a non-voting member
- 3 parents/guardians
- 3 staff: teachers and/or support staff
- 3 community members (which will include a seat designated to reflect the diversity of the school community)

Names of the PRES School Advisory Council members and their respective years of service are detailed in Appendix A attached to the bylaws.

Decision-Making Process

Prospect Road Elementary School Advisory Council (SAC) will make decisions in the following ways:

- All decisions will be made by consensus where possible.
- If a consensus cannot be reached, the decision will be delayed until the next meeting. If at that time consensus cannot be reached, a majority vote will be required of those members present
- A quorum will be established when the meeting is called to order. A quorum will consist of a minimum of 50% plus one of the SAC voting members present and shall include a minimum of one representative from each representative group that has more than one representative on the Committee. Representative groups consist of parents/ guardians, staff, and community members. In addition, the principal or designate shall be present
- Only decisions that have at least 50% +1 support of those attending the school advisory meeting will go forward as advice to the school principal.
- Information on important decisions will be distributed one week prior to the monthly meeting.

School advisory council commitments

The Prospect Road Elementary School Advisory Council will be responsible for:

- providing all SAC members with a voice in decision-making
- working in collaboration with the principal and participating in efforts to improve student achievement and student and community well-being by receiving information on the school improvement plan and monitoring progress and improvements under the plan
- advising the principal and the regional centre on: developing policies that promote student achievement and safe and inclusive schools; school practices and initiatives; communication among the school parents and community; any matters that are referred to the school advisory council by the principal, the regional centre or the Minister
- developing strategies to improve and support the extracurricular programs and special projects of the school
- maintaining effective communication with parents/guardians by holding regular public meetings and making copies of agendas and minutes available upon request
- advising the principal and staff on any matters that are referred to the school advisory council by the principal, the regional centre or the Minister
- in accordance with the terms of the school advisory council agreement, determining priorities for spending the funds allocated to support the mandate of the school advisory council
- advising the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development or the Provincial Advisory Council on policy and other educational matters.
- preparing an annual report in the form and containing the information determined by the Minister.

Halifax Regional Centre for Education commitments

Halifax Regional Centre for Education will make a commitment to support the Prospect Road Elementary Advisory Council by:

- providing a yearly professional development session reflective of the roles and responsibilities of the School Advisory Council
- providing a School Administration supervisor to assist the school council as required
- providing feedback to the council on the school improvement plan and the annual report
- providing opportunities to give input on regional centre for education policies and procedures, initiatives and communication
- arranging meetings between the Regional Executive Director of Education or designate and the school advisory council as required
- making available copies of Provincial and HRCE policies via the HRCE's website
- providing mediation services when there is unresolved conflict between the school advisory council and the principal
- responding to advice/questions from the school advisory council

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development commitments

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will support the Prospect Road Elementary School Advisory Council by:

- developing educational materials to assist school advisory councils in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities
- providing opportunities to give input on provincial policies and any other matters referred to the SAC by the Minister
- providing mediation when there is unresolved conflict between the school advisory council and the regional centre for education
- organizing and/or supporting professional development opportunities for council members
- providing funds to support the mandate of the school advisory council

Parties to the agreement

We, the undersigned, understand and agree to follow through on the commitments made in this school advisory council agreement.

Kattie Misener
Prospect Road Elementary School SAC Chair Date

December.5, 2022

HRCE Regional Executive Director of Education Date

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Date