



## BHS Information Session

Parent School Support Committee/Home and School

December 6, 2021

6:00 p.m.

**Attendance** : Jo-Ann Schwarze, Ashley Guthrie, Alyssa Draper, Angela Hatt, Sarah Wilcox, Roxanne Grant

### **Presentation Notes :**

#### **1. Overview of District Education Council**

- Each of the 4 school districts have a DEC made up of elected representatives that serve 4-year terms (municipal elections).
- The DEC representative for our school is *Shelly Merrill-McKillop*.
- The DEC is established under the Education Act.
- Using the policies and standards of Education and Early Childhood Development, each DEC develops objectives, policies and goals based on data about the needs of the district.
- The ends policies of each DEC can be viewed in the District Improvement Plan.
- The DEC is responsible for:
  - Local decision-making in the operation of schools in their district
  - Hiring, evaluation, and accountability of the Superintendent
  - Sustainability reviews
  - Ensuring EECD policies are reflected in district policy and procedure
  - Approval of the district budget and spending
  - Capital project approvals
  - Etc.
- Learn more here: [District Education Council New Brunswick | DECNB](#)

## **2. Overview Parent School Support Committee**

- Each school is expected to facilitate the election of a Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) who serve as the voice of parents and community members.
- The PSSC provides advice, feedback, and direction to the school principal and to the DEC.
- PSSC's meet about 6 times per year to review and discuss school data, the school improvement plan, the school performance report, community engagement, and positive learning environment plans.
- PSSC's also review and discuss district policy and give feedback to the DEC and superintendent as requested.
- PSSC's have a voice in the hiring and evaluation of school administration.
- Members of the PSSC consist of the principal, parents, community members, one teacher, home and school members, and in some cases students.
  
- *BHS has always had a dedicated group of parents willing to serve on the PSSC (often combined with Home and School). In the last school year, only one in-person meeting was held with updates sent via e-mail to members throughout the year due to public health restrictions.*
- *Some members have children who moved on to FMHS while others have served 3+ years (the usual length of a term), therefore membership is currently low and we are looking for additional members.*
- *For this school year, Covid/public health measures will continue to be in place. Virtual meetings may be an option if decided upon by the group.*

## **3. Home and School Association History at BHS**

- A Home and School Association consists of a body of volunteer parents and teachers who come together with a common goal.
- The first Home and School (in my tenure) formed in 2011 as the result of fundraising efforts for a new playground. This group formed an official

Home and School Association and registered as such with the *New Brunswick Home and School Association*.

- To qualify for official status, Home and Schools must be registered, collect membership dues, and submit a yearly fee to the NBHSA.
- Membership advantages include guidance from the NB association, invitations to yearly networking and workshops, and the right to open a bank account in the registered name.
- From 2011 – 2021, Blacks Harbour School has had well-functioning and successful Home and Schools Committees with various parent leaders.
- Some of the many projects funded by the Home and School over the years include: the playground, tire swing, zip line, field trips, experiences and productions, technology, grade 5 closing celebrations, additions to our library, and so much more.
- The leadership of the Home and School has changed 3 times since 2011 (leadership changes as students move on to Fundy or as new folks are inducted).
- In 2014, during such a leadership change, it was decided to drop the status of “*official*” Home and School and discontinue paying dues to the NB body.
- Since that time, the bank account has changed hands as the leadership changed (2 signing authorities are usually the president and treasurer).
- In September 2021, the former Home and School decided to disband after many successful years of service. It was their hope that a new group would form in the new school year.
- There remains just over \$5000 of raised funds. The account has been closed and the funds placed in a bank draft made out to the “BHS Home and School Association”. The school is not able to access these funds as a Home and School Association does not currently exist.
- To use these funds to further our goals, a new bank draft made out to *Blacks Harbour School* is needed. This will require the former executive to visit the bank and have the draft changed from “BHS Home and School Association” to “*Blacks Harbour School.*”
- The school has earmarked these funds for the purchase of technology.

#### 4. School Improvement Plan

- A school Improvement Plan is developed yearly by staff based on data collected over the previous year related to academic progress, attendance and engagement, and school need.
- Our current SIP is located on the school website and is updated a minimum of twice per year. Our current focus is on literacy, numeracy, positive learning environment, and technology.
- Our school fund-raising goals are based on our School Improvement Plan.

#### 5. School Fundraising Goals 2021 – 2022

- **GOAL #1** - We are looking to have all teachers at BHS trained in the *Science of Reading* and to purchase resources necessary to offer quality reading instruction and intervention (know better = do better). Our primary teachers raised over \$10 000 dollars last school year for training through the summer and to purchase resources and programming to support instruction. We are currently looking to raise an additional \$6000-\$10 000 to train our intermediate teachers and continue with our goal. Through local sponsorship, grants, and auction fundraising we will meet this target! Training for all homeroom teachers is scheduled through the months of January and February after the hours of instruction.
- **GOAL #2** - The pandemic has highlighted for us the need to upgrade the technology accessible to our students. Currently we have 30 net books and about 20 I-pads in our inventory. These devices are 10-15 years old and do not support many of the programs we have available to students. We believe our students are at a disadvantage due to lack of access and we are looking to raise \$20 000+ dollars over the next couple of years to purchase technology for students use.
- Our initial goal is to buy 2-3 new devices for each of the 8 classrooms.
- Should a new Home and School form, we would be looking to work with the members on the technology goal. We wish to place the \$5000+ funds of the former Home and School into a newly established technology fund.

- We are also in the process of applying for grants.  
I wish to thank everyone for their interest and hope you consider joining us in the new year!

Respectfully,  
Jo-Ann Schwarze