

WBS School Advisory Council

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Time: 07:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m

Location: WBS Seminar Room

Members Present:

1. Co-Chairs: Julia Spence (Parent of P-3 French Immersion), Katelyn McKenzie (Teacher Grade 5/6 French Program)
2. Principal: Susan Casey (Principal PP- grade 6)
3. Teacher Representative: Paola Bartolacci (Learning Support, English Program)
4. Teacher Representative: Joanne Treen (Vice Principal, WBS, Grades 4-6)
5. Support Staff Representative: Vacant
6. Parent Representative: Julia Spence (Parent of P-3 French Immersion)
7. Parent Representative: Haley Flewwelling (Parent of P-3 /4-6 student, French Immersion & Home and School Representative)
8. Parent Representative: Bei Zhou
9. Parent Representative: Kelly Cull (Parent of P-3 & 4-6 English Program)
10. Community Members: Tricia Schmeisser
11. Community Member: Janice Aucoin
12. Community Member: Susan Hart
13. Community Member: Tao (Tony) Qin

Regrets: Tricia Scheimsser, Bei Zhou, Susan Casey

1. Opening

The meeting commenced with the distribution of the agenda and meeting minutes from the previous SAC meeting, April 21, 2026.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 21, 2026 meeting were approved and distributed. The minutes will be posted on the school website under the SAC page.

2. Principal's Report:

SAC May 19, 2026

Principal Update

1. Teacher Appreciation Week was held May 4-8th- hosted by the Home and School. This was a great week! The staff felt spoiled and the Thankful Thursday activity, where students were able to hand out a thank you statement to a staff member of their choice, was a favorite among students and staff.

2. Student Success Plan- Short Cycle #3

a. Literacy Strategies

- Teachers regularly collect and respond to formative data from small groups, conferences, and writing samples.
- Explicit modelling of writing expectations and fluency strategies is visible in all classrooms (anchor charts, sentence starters)
- Teachers use culturally responsive mentor texts and embed identity-affirming practices.
- Teachers provide ongoing, actionable feedback to students that is aligned to clear success criteria .

b. Numeracy Strategies

- Strengthen instruction to move students from having limited strategies within operations to applying a wider range of approaches, supported by explicit instruction and targeted practice.
- Strengthen Students' ability to recall basic facts within operations so that students have a greater ability to apply these skills to problem-solving tasks.
- Increase explicit modelling of mathematical reasoning and student talk (e.g., "How do you know?" "Show your thinking").
- Continue using the math criteria documents to determine student levels of fact fluency understanding and plan targeted small-group instruction.

c. Well-being Strategies

- Continue with structured SEL instruction, including vocabulary building for emotions, self-regulation strategies, and problem-solving frameworks (e.g., I-Messages, size of the problem).
- Strengthen partner and group work expectations to ensure safe, inclusive interactions beyond friend groups.

- Continue reinforcing the school-wide matrix through explicit modelling, reteaching, and targeted Tier 1 lessons.
- Improve active supervision and intentional adult presence during unstructured times (lunch, recess) based on behaviour data.
- Engage families more intentionally after significant incidents to strengthen home–school partnership.

3. 2026-2027 update

- a. Class Configurations- 46 classes total =2 Pre-Primary; 11 EFI; 33 Eng classes.
- b. Staffing for next year has begun- first round of permanent positions have closed; second round goes live tomorrow (May 27). We have a number of term positions to be posted due to pregnancy leave (we love babies at WBS).
- c. Boundary decision- Effective September 2026, the West Bedford School boundary will direct new students living at identified addresses in the Brookline area to Kingswood Elementary. However, for the 2026–27 school year, a one-year sibling exemption will be in place. Any new Pre Primary or Primary children starting school this fall who have siblings currently attending West Bedford School will be permitted to attend West Bedford. For families living within the new boundary without older siblings at West Bedford, new Pre Primary or Primary students will attend Kingswood Elementary beginning in September

1. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

2. New Business

A letter of concern was received by the school from a community member. The letter is as follows:

John Francis
206-48 Farrington Way
Bedford, NS B4B 2L4
902-404-3328

Dear Principal Casey and Principal MacDonald,
SAC Co-Chairs Spence and McKenzie,
SAC Co-Chairs Nkemjika Emezie-Ejinima and Sarah Jeans

HRCE School Supervisors Toth and Hickman,
Councillor St-Amand and MLA Stoilov,

I am writing as a resident of 48 Farringdon Way, whose property directly backs onto the West Bedford School grounds, to formally raise ongoing issues regarding after-hours use of the school's property. These issues are persistent, well-established, and have a direct and ongoing impact on surrounding residents.

The concerns relate to:

- Use of the basketball court during late evening and early morning hours - Use of the basketball court involving amplified sound
- Unrestricted public access to the school parking lot outside of school hours

Basketball Court Usage

The basketball court is being used on a routine basis:

- Late at night (approximately 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.)
- Early in the morning (approximately 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.)
- By groups using amplified sound through speakers or vehicles

Court lighting remains active during these periods, enabling continued activity into late evening hours. This results in ongoing noise from ball impact, shouting, and amplified sound that is consistently audible inside nearby residences, even with windows closed. Lighting from the court is also clearly visible from adjacent properties.

Parking Lot Usage

The school parking lot is accessible at all times and is regularly used for activities unrelated to school operations, including:

- Late-night vehicle activity involving rapid acceleration, tire squealing, and drifting - Winter use for vehicle maneuvers such as "donuts," including incidents involving unsafe practices
- Commercial use by a mobile tire-changing business during the spring and summer months

These activities generate repeated noise disturbances and have required multiple calls to police services for enforcement.

Requested Actions

To address these issues, the following actions are requested:

Basketball Court

- Controlled access and use of the court during school hours only – other courts have limited residential impacts
- Deactivation of court lighting at dusk

Parking Lot

- Installation of signage restricting use to school-sanctioned activities - Implementation of controlled access (e.g., gate or barrier), consistent with other HRCE sites

Next Steps

Given the ongoing nature of these issues and their impact, I request confirmation of the actions to be taken and an anticipated implementation timeline, as the summer will exacerbate these issues.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John Francis

The SAC was informed that Scott Hickman (School supervisor for the high school) responded to this letter.

The SAC reviewed the following funding proposals:

1. Year End “leaving event” will be held near the end of the school year and be held during school hours. This will be on June 25th- no cost to students and families. Each student will get a t-shirt and a certificate. Cupcakes will be ordered.
2. A letter of concern came in from a resident about the use of the field, basketball court etc after school hours and the noise these activities create for nearby residents. They are requesting action to be taken.

3. Sac Funds and Review of Funding Proposals

A. Jennie Mitton, Savannah Johnson, Ashley Howe- looking for \$2000 for a Trip to Grand Pre National Historic Site- not approved- they already had a trip and there isn't enough money

B. Erika Christenson, and Megan Ellis- looking for \$550-\$700 for a trip to Museum of Natural History- Approved \$550-\$700

C. Amanda Power, Erica Downey, Jessica Misewich, Jessica Horne- Asking for \$1918 for a trip to Noggins Farm- Approved \$1918

3. SAC Members' questions/comments

Open Floor:

-A member asked about the information about SAC funding. This information was shared with Steve Gallagher back in the fall, as well as the minister of education. This information is posted and is available for the public to view.

- A member asked about who deals with the crosswalks around the school, and it was said that it was HRM- a student was brushed by a car this morning which is what brought about the question

4. Future Meetings and Adjournment

There will be no meeting in June 2026

Adjournment of the Meeting

