



## School Advisory Council Agreement

### **Elizabeth Sutherland School Advisory Council Agreement**

The purpose of this School Advisory Council Agreement is to establish the terms of reference for the partnership between the Elizabeth Sutherland School Advisory Council, Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE), and the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development 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<sup>th</sup> 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 Council**

The Advisory Council shall include the following members:

- The principal, who is a non-voting member
- Four parents/guardians
- Four staff members (3 teachers / 1 support staff)
- Four community members
- Two students

Names of the members of the Elizabeth Sutherland School Advisory Council and their respective years of service are detailed in an appendix to the bylaws.

## **Decision-making Process**

Elizabeth Sutherland 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, which will occur within thirty days.
- If at that meeting a consensus cannot be reached, a majority vote is required of the quorum present for the proposal to be approved.
- If there is a timeline within which a decision must be reached, an emergency meeting may be called by the chair of the SAC prior to the deadline.
- A quorum will be established when the meeting is called to order. A quorum will consist of a minimum of eight (8) of the voting members of the SAC and shall include a minimum of one member from each representative group. Representative groups consist of parents/guardians, staff, students, and community members.
- In addition, the principal or designate shall be present. The vice-principal is the designate as the non-voting member.

## **School Advisory Council Commitments**

The Elizabeth Sutherland School Advisory Council will be responsible for:

- providing all partners 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 ways and strategies to improve and support the extra-curricular program and special projects in the school
- maintaining effective communication with families 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 center 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 EECD 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

### **Regional Centre for Education Commitments**

HRCE will provide the following support to Elizabeth Sutherland School Advisory Council:

- 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**

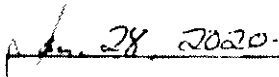
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will support the Elizabeth Sutherland School Advisory Council by:


- 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 the council members
- Providing funds to support the mandate of the School Advisory Council


**Parties to the Agreement**


We, the undersigned, understand and agree to the follow through on the commitments made in this School Advisory Council agreement.


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Sutherland School Advisory Council Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HRCE Regional Executive Director of Education

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date