

## **EAST RICHMOND EDUCATION CENTRE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL AGREEMENT**

The purpose of this school advisory council agreement is to establish the terms of reference for the partnership between the East Richmond Education Centre School Advisory Council, Strait Regional Centre for Education, and the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to operate a School Advisory Council at the school level.

### **Effective Date and Review of the Agreement**

The agreement begins when signed by all parties. The SAC shall review the agreement annually before June 30 of each year. Any agreed upon revisions can be made at that time and submitted to the SRCE and the DOEECD 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
- Two parents/guardians
- Two teachers
- One member of the school support staff
- Two students
- Two community members (which will include one First Nations member)

Names of the members of the East Richmond Education Centre (EREC) School Advisory Council and their respective years of service are detailed in an appendix to the bylaws.

### **Decision-making Process**

EREC 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 30 days.
- If at the end of 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 five of the voting members of the SAC and shall ideally 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.

### **School Advisory Council Commitments**

The EREC SAC 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, student, and community well-being by receiving information on the school improvement plan and monitoring progress and improvements under the plan
- assisting in developing policies that promote student achievement and safe and inclusive schools
- 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.

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

SRCE will provide the following support to East Richmond Education Centre School Advisory Council:

- orientation and in-service sessions for council members, and workshops on special topics upon request
- a facilitator to assist the school council as required
- feedback to the council on the school improvement plan and the annual report
- opportunities to give input on regional centre for education policies and procedures
- meetings between the regional executive director of education or designate and the school advisory council upon request.
- copies of policies via the SRCE's website
- mediation services when there is unresolved conflict between the SAC and the principal.

### **Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Commitments**

The DOECD will support the EREC 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 SAC 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 with the commitments made in this school advisory council agreement

\_\_\_\_\_  
EREC School Advisory Council Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
SRCE Regional Executive Director of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date