

**Central Spryfield School Advisory Council**  
**Agreement & Bylaws**

364 Herring Cove Rd  
Halifax, B3R 1V8

The purpose of Agreement is to establish the terms of reference for the partnership between Central Spryfield Elementary School, the 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.

The parties agree to the following:

1. **Duration of Agreement**

This Agreement is effective from the date it is signed and will be reviewed annually by the members before June 30<sup>th</sup>. Any mutually 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.

2. **Structure of the Council**

The membership of the School Advisory Council will be:

- School Principal (permanent, non-voting member)
- 3 Parents/Guardians (elected or appointed)
- 3 school staff (2 Teachers and 1 member of the CSES support staff)
- 3 Community Members

Efforts will be made to include individuals who reflect the diversity of our community, including Aboriginals, African Canadians, racially visible persons and persons with disabilities. Council members will serve for 1 to 3 year terms. See attached Appendix for names and lengths of terms of council members.

3. **Decision-making Process**

Central Spryfield 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, 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 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 six of the voting members of the SAC and shall

include a minimum of one member from each representative group. Representative groups consist of parent/guardians, staff, students, and community members.

- In addition, the Principal or designate shall be present. The Vice-Principal is the designate.

#### 4. **School Advisory Council Commitments and Responsibilities**

Central Spryfield School Advisory Council will be responsible for:

- Making CHILDREN our priority; working in collaboration with the Principal and participating in efforts to improve student achievement and student and community well-being by receiving information of the school improvement plan and monitoring progress and improvements under the plan.
- Providing all SAC members with a voice in decision making.
- Advising, supporting and promoting school policies that promote: student achievement, and safe and inclusive schools and programs; and curriculum initiatives.
- Developing strategies to improve and support the extracurricular programs and special projects of CSES.
- Maintaining effective communication with parents/guardians by holding regular public meetings and making copies of agendas and minutes available upon request. Meetings will be held at least 6 times per school year.
- Advising the Principal and staff on any matters that are referred to the SAC by the Principal, the HRCE or the Minister.
- In accordance with the terms of the SAC agreement, determining priorities for spending the funds allocated to support the mandate of the SAC.
- Advising the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development or the Provincial Advisory Council on policy and other educational matters.
- Preparing an annual accountability report as defined by the Education Act, and contains information as determined by the Minister.

#### 5. **Halifax Regional Centre for Education Commitments**

HRCE will make a commitment to support Central Spryfield Elementary Advisory Council by:

- Providing occasional workshops on special topics for SAC members
- Providing a facilitator to assist the SAC as required.
- Providing mediation services when there is unresolved conflict between the SAC and the Principal.
- Providing opportunities to give input on HRCE policies and procedures.
- Providing meetings between the Regional Executive Director of Education or designate and the SAC, upon request.
- Providing copies of policies via the HRCE's website.

6. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Commitments

The Department of Education will support the Central Spryfield 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

7. Parties to the Agreement

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Central Spryfield Elementary SAC Chair

Dec 12 / 17  
Date

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

4 Feb 21  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dept. of Education & Early Childhood Development

25 Feb / 21  
Date



***Central Spryfield School***  
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**Membership**

The Central Spryfield Elementary School Advisory Council will have 9 voting members which shall include 3 parents/guardians, 3 Central Spryfield staff (2 teachers and 1 support staff), 3 community members. The principal is a permanent, non-voting member.

**Eligibility for membership**

***Parents/Guardians***

- Must have a child at Central Spryfield Elementary School and cannot be a Halifax Regional Centre for Education employee on staff at Central Spryfield Elementary School.

***Teachers***

- Must be a teacher on staff at Central Spryfield Elementary School.

***Support Staff***

- Must be on the support staff at Central Spryfield Elementary School (i.e. secretary, EPA, caretaker).

***Community Members***

- Must not be an employee of Central Spryfield Elementary School
- Must not have children registered at Central Spryfield Elementary School.
- Must reside in the geographical area served by Central Spryfield Elementary School or provide a service to or within the geographical area served by Central Spryfield Elementary School.

**Elections and appointments**

Elections will be held in September by secret ballot. Appointments of community members will occur prior to the October meeting.

***Parents/Guardians***

A call for nominations may be made during the first two weeks of September through the school website, September newsletter sent home with children, and/or the Home and School Association, with a day designated for voting in late September. Nominations will close one week prior to a duly advertised voting day. Nominations will be received by the school principal and forwarded to the school advisory council chair. Election will be by a simple majority vote of eligible parents/guardians at a designated voting day. Eligible voters, unable to vote on the voting day can contact the school to make arrangements to vote prior to the voting day. Eligible parents/guardians are those who have children enrolled at Central Spryfield Elementary School. In the event of a tie, a run-off election will be organized.

### *Teachers and support staff*

Teachers and support staff will elect/choose their own representatives in September by the method of their choice.

### *Community members*

The community members will be appointed to the school advisory council by the SAC prior to the October meeting so that the executive can be selected. The positions will be advertised on the school website and may be advertised in the local newspaper. All applicants may be asked to submit, in writing, a brief resume and a letter which explains why the applicant is interested in being on the school advisory council.

### Terms of service

Terms of service for each representative group are the following:

- Parents/guardians are elected or appointed for a term of three years. Parents/guardians elected or appointed to fill a vacancy are elected or appointed for the remainder of the school year with the option to complete the term.
- Teachers and support staff are elected/chosen from their respective group for a term of three years. Teachers and support staff elected or appointed to fill a vacancy are elected or appointed for the remainder of the term.
- Community members are appointed for a term of two years. Community members appointed to fill a vacancy are appointed for the remainder of the term.
- All members can re-offer for election or appointment to the SAC at the end of their term, to a maximum of three consecutive terms.
- The principal position is permanent.
- A council member elected to an executive position may serve in that position for a maximum of two consecutive one year terms.

### Vacancies

Should a vacancy arise, it will be addressed as follows:

- Vacancies on the SAC will be filled from the relevant membership group.
- Vacancies of less than six months may be filled by school advisory council appointment.
- Vacancies of longer than six months will be filled according to the bylaws governing elections or appointment of the appropriate membership groups to fill the remainder of the vacated term.

## Executive

- The executive will consist of a chair, vice chair, secretary and principal. The selection of the chair, vice chair and secretary will be done annually at the October meeting. The chair, vice chair and secretary will be selected from those school advisory council members other than the principal and will serve no more than two consecutive years as chair, vice chair or secretary. The chair should not be an employee of the Halifax Regional Centre for Education.

## Agenda and meeting summary

The chair will draw up the meeting agenda in consultation with the principal five days prior to each meeting. Copies of the agenda will be distributed to each member by email, along with any other information that is relevant to the agenda items. Agendas from each meeting will be kept in Central Spryfield Elementary School's records, in electronic format. Agendas will be made available to the public upon request.

The secretary will prepare a meeting summary for each school advisory council meeting which will include highlights of key decisions and actions. Once approved at the subsequent meeting, the meeting summaries will be given to the principal of Central Spryfield Elementary School to be included in the school record in either print or electronic format. Meeting summaries will be made available to the public upon request and posted on the school website.

## Meetings

Meetings will be conducted according to the following guidelines:

- A regular meeting schedule will be determined at the initial meeting of the school year with a minimum of four meetings annually. Additional meetings may be scheduled as determined by Central Spryfield Elementary School SAC. Meetings will be 60 minutes in length unless the SAC agrees by consensus to go longer.
- Members who are not able to attend a meeting will notify the school advisory council secretary or the school advisory council chair by noon of the meeting date.
- Any member absent without cause for three consecutive meetings will be considered to have vacated their position. Vacancies will be filled as per these bylaws.

## Public Participation in SAC Meetings

- Members of the public who wish to address the school advisory council are asked to inform the SAC through the chair or the school principal in writing at least one week prior to the school advisory council meeting. They may address the meeting at the discretion of the chair.
- Agendas will allow for a ten-minute period for input on the agenda items from the public in attendance at the council meeting with pre-approval from the SAC Chair.

## Quorum

A quorum will be established when the meeting is called to order. A quorum will consist of a minimum of five of the SAC voting members present and shall include a minimum of one representative from each representative group. Representative groups consist of parents/ guardians, staff, and community members. In addition, the principal or the vice principal shall be present.

## Decision-making process

The following principles and procedures will be used in making decisions.

### **Principles**

- All council members are responsible for making decisions that ensure the best education possible for our students.
- All council members will have the opportunity to participate in decision-making.
- Council decisions will be by consensus whenever possible.

### **Procedures**

- Agenda items will be discussed in a structured way prior to a decision.
- When background information is needed on an agenda item, the principal will provide council members with that information and the time required to review it in advance of a decision.
- Whenever possible, decisions will be made by consensus.
- If consensus cannot be reached, the decision can be delayed until the following meeting, which must occur within 30 days. If at that time consensus cannot be reached, a majority vote will be required of those members present.
- Decisions and recommendations will be recorded in the minutes of meetings.

## School Improvement Plan and Annual Report

The school improvement plan for Central Spryfield Elementary School will be developed by the principal and staff of the school and shared with the SAC. The SAC will work in collaboration with the principal and participate in efforts to improve student achievement and student and community well-being by regularly receiving information on the school improvement plan and monitoring progress and improvements under the plan.

In addition, in accordance with the terms of the school advisory council agreement, the SAC will determine priorities for spending the funds allocated to support the mandate of the school advisory council including student achievement and report annually on the expenditures of funds to the Minister.



The SAC will prepare an annual report in the format and containing the information determined by the Minister. The report will be presented annually at the June SAC meeting and then submitted to the Regional Centre for Education by the end of June.

Adopting and Amending Bylaws

A notice of motion, given one meeting in advance, is required to amend the bylaws. Bylaws will be amended following the established decision-making process. The amended bylaws will be forwarded to the Regional Executive Director for approval, and the bylaws or amendments become effective upon receipt of this approval.

Parties to the Agreement

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CSES SAC Chair

Dec 17, 2019  
Date

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

4 Feb 21  
Date

Appendix A

Terms of Service

Name	Position	Term end
Crystal Ellingsen (Chair)	Parent	June 2021
Michelle Quigley	parent	June 2021
Sherry Fraser	parent	June 2021
Jill Bray	Support staff	June 2021
Jackie Bourget	teacher	June 2021
Jenna Randall	teacher	June 2021
<sup>Dun Gilfoxy</sup> Crystal Pelly (secretary)	principal	Principal permanent position
<del>Oliver Jupp (secretary)</del>	<del>Vice principal</del>	
Unfilled	Community	
Unfilled	Community	
Unfilled	Community	

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Crystal Ellingsen (Chair)	Parent	June 2021
Michelle Quigley	parent	June 2021
Sherry Fraser	parent	June 2021
Jill Bray	Support staff	June 2021
Jackie Bourget	teacher	June 2019
Jenna Randall	teacher	June 2021
Dan Gilfoy (secretary)	principal	Principal permanent position
Unfilled	Community	
Unfilled	Community	
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