



June 12, 2024

Regional School Advisory Committee (RSAC) Meeting 1

Regional School Advisory Committee (RSAC) and its role and context. The meeting was led by the Regional Executive Director of HRCE, Steve Gallagher. The committee gathered to discuss two main topics: communication between schools and families and cell phone use in school and the new provincial policy.

Communications Discussion:

Two members of the communications team for HRCE, Kelly Connors and Lindsey Bunin, joined to discuss communication in the context of critical incidents or emergencies in schools and informing the committee that they support principals and schools with messaging during these times. The conversation revolved around ensuring timely and informative contact with families during critical incidents or emergencies, both localized to schools and system wide.

The committee was asked how communication with parents and the public about serious incidents in schools (such as threats, violence, or hold and secure/lockdowns) could be improved. The participants shared their perspectives and concerns, and gave some suggestions such as using social media, sending timely and clear messages at the school level, and educating parents about the protocols and expectations during these times.

Provincial Cell Phone Directive:

The new directive from the Minister of Education that requires students to turn off and store their phones during instructional, with exceptions for medical or ability needs. The participants expressed their views and questions on how to implement and enforce this directive, and what are the benefits and drawbacks of it.

They also discussed the possible exceptions and variations for different grades and situations. Students that use phones to manage medical conditions being at the forefront of these exceptions. The committee acknowledged the need to explain the rationale to students and parents, and that consistency across all schools will be key.
