

SAC Meeting January 16, 2024

Minutes

Meeting called to order by:

- ★ **Attendance:**, Karin Hendren, Shawn Marsh, David Nash, Jason Schlegel,, Melissa Mbeba, Kate Cummings, Nakita Strowbridge-Ford

Regrets - Edy, Alyce

- ★ Motion to begin at 6:00 by Melissa
- ★
- ★ [November Minutes](#) Approval by: Motion to approve minutes by Karin Henden - seconded by Melissa

★ **Membership - Welcome new member, Nakita Strowbridge-Ford**

★ **Admin Report**

- **Concerts** - Thank you to Ms. Hartery and staff volunteers for two amazing holiday concert performances!
- **Registration Month** - February is Registration Month. The HRCE has officially abandoned paper for this process. In the coming months we will begin to have an idea about what our school configuration will look like next year.
- **African Heritage Month** - Our teachers integrate lessons about African history and culture throughout the year but February is a time when we make it a focus in the entire school at the same time.
 - "This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme, ***Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians***, outlines the spirit of perseverance that people of African Descent have demonstrated over the centuries in our province. The theme also aligns with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024." - Black Cultural Centre
 - Bigger Events during February will include the **Maritime Center for African Dance** on February 12th in addition to an upper elementary trip to Woodlawn High to see Reggae Artist, **Jah'Mila**
 - **We will also have a daily fact on the announcements that links to the 2024 theme and the new 2024 poster.**
- **PEBS Assemblies** - We had an assembly just before the holiday break and students filled our cylinder again. The next assembly will be on February 1st. During our assemblies we recognize students for their contributions to our school culture and for milestones in their development. We also highlight current trends and issues that we see in our school data. We are currently working on schoolwide lessons about discrimination and sexual harassment as we are noticing a rise in these behaviours.
- **New Games Club** - Thank-you to Ms. Abu Chekeir, from Schools Plus, who is organizing a games club that is currently running every Friday and Monday during the

lunch hour. We have four groups on a schedule with a total of 54 grade 3-6 students registered.

- **Chess Club** - Thank you to Mr. Balcom for returning to do our lunch hour Chess Club. We have 30 students in this club each Wednesday.
- **Painting** - We have a professional painter in our school who is making his way up and down our hallways to lay on a fresh coat!
- **Carpenter** - Has started to replace ceiling tiles that are in rough shape, and holes
- **Windows** - Have replaced/repared 15 windows/springs.
- **Thank You** - On behalf of the students and staff I would like to thank our many volunteers who helped out with the Holiday Shopping, Halloween Dance, Pizza Thursdays, the breakfast program and our P-2 Student Reading Initiative. We feel very well supported by our school community.
- **November Professional Learning** - On November 24th, we worked on our Student Success Plan and Total Participation Techniques. Teachers have been challenged to try these before our February staff meeting.
- **Family BINGO Night** - On February 15th, our Home and School will be hosting another BINGO night. Spread the word!

★ Student Success Planning (SSP) Update

- ★ **SSP** - Sharing of Term 1 Classroom-Based Literacy Data - Table discussion
- ★ **Math Fluency Block** - We currently have Teri Lantagne, HRCE Math Coach, supporting two of our teachers and our entire school on how to approach the teaching of fact fluency. She attended a P-3 meeting last week to help us understand tracking systems and math running records.

Cycle 3 Strategies

Language Arts Strategies

- Use Total Participation Techniques to increase student engagement during the Workshop.
- Teachers will share these experiences in January during a staff meeting

Math Strategies...

- Use Total Participation Techniques to increase student engagement during mathematics
- Teachers will share these experiences in January during a staff meeting

Wellbeing Strategy...

- Teachers will continue to reinforce and allow students to practice the SEL strategies explicitly taught during Health class (Mind Up Resource).
- Well-being survey - are there any questions you'd like to add?

- ★ **Community Voice Initiative** - Over the next year, school communities will see changes empowering local voices, including an enhanced role for SACs in supporting schools, RCEs and CSAP. This will include:

- a new innovation fund that will provide grants of up to \$10,000 to SACs that apply to develop innovative projects supporting student well-being and achievement
- an annual conference for all SAC chairs to provide policy input and discuss common school challenges and opportunities
- more opportunities for input into how school funds are distributed in schools, including the Healthy Schools Grants
- more parent, guardian and community representation on SACs.

Families will also see enhanced transparency and engagement with schools, regions and leaders through:

- regional executive director-led public engagement sessions with parents and guardians of school-aged children and regional leaders, three times a year, to discuss student achievement, well-being, capital planning and more
- improved parent navigation in RCEs and CSAP, including greater clarity about the role of parent navigators and a greater focus on ensuring families' questions are answered.

There will also be more opportunities for participation at the regional level for students and other members of school communities:

- a new regional student advisory committee that reports directly to its regional executive director/superintendent on topics such as achievement and well-being and other aspects of student experiences, especially as it relates to the Student Success Survey
- a new regional advisory table that reflects the diversity of each region, made up primarily of SAC members, to advise regional executive directors.

★ SAC Finances -

- We purchased two Mimio boards, an Ipad and 3 new Chromebooks. Not all charges have come out of the account yet (only 2 Mimio boards and one Ipad)

- The current balance is \$2,174.62 down from \$5196 in the fall.

- We purchased \$292.22 worth of professional resources for the last PD day. We would like to ask the SAC if we can use their funds to cover these costs.

- All agreed - no objections
- The 3 chromebooks will cost approximately \$1100.
- We will have approximately \$780 to help grade 6 or other initiatives in the spring.

Discussion....

★ **Other Business - school photography. Template for request for proposal. Strike a team between SAC and Home and School. End of March break, that proposal should be submitted. Three people have already submitted a proposal, as well as the current photographer**

- Dave agreed to step up as a volunteer for that.

★ **Melissa asked to pass along to H&S idea of using students' artwork and changing them into Christmas cards.**

Further discussion for remaining funds will be had in the new calendar year.

★ **Motion to adjourn at 7pm by Kate**

★ **Future Meeting Dates -**

Wednesday, January 17
Wednesday, February 21
Wednesday, April 24
Wednesday, May 22

Motion to adjourn at _____pm