

SAC Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 28th, 2021

Attendance: Brendon MacGillivray, Paula Little, Kristen Bishop, Courtney Williams, Margot Gall, Jemima Perks, Jessie-Lee Mclsaac, Marion Gates, Margot Gall

Call to order: Jemima Perks at 5:52pm

Approval of the agenda:

1st: Marion Gates

2nd: Paula Little

Approval of June 2021 meeting minutes: (deferred to future meeting)

Principal's Report

a) Student Success Planning

- Goal from HRCE: all P-2 students reading at grade level
- Short cycle planning (shorter, specific chunks of assessment on a 4 week basis)
- Reading levels reported every 4 weeks (kept in HRCE database)
- Support for this coming from resource staff
- Resources that will facilitate the growth of students in grades primary-two. We have some access to these kits in our school, but we feel we need more to accomplish our goal.
- Teachers need to have access to guided-reading books to be able to achieve small groupwork to ensure that individual students are able to achieve their benchmarks. Fountas and Pannell are able to access packages of books that appeal to where individual groupings of students are in their reading in lieu of teachers pulling books that may or may not be reasonable for the individual students.
- We would like to buy three kits of the different levels (green, orange, blue) by accessing some of the funds from the SAC.

b) Operational

- New staff:
 - African Nova Scotian Support Worker: Denise Grouse
 - Temporarily for Vanessa Simmons.
 - Mandate: support academic and cultural success.
 - Shared with Central Spryfield Elementary.
 - SLD Teacher: Sherene
 - Works with students diagnosed with learning disabilities. Assigned to our school 50% of the time. Supporting staff with teaching strategies and students directly
 - English as an Additional Language Teacher: Nicole Porter (50%)
- Virtual Curriculum Night
- Grade 6 Provincial Assessments
 - Happening Oct. 4-8
- Reconfiguration
 - Only one student moved classrooms
 - Student has not arrived to school yet, so an easy move
- Classroom Configuration
 - Pre-Primary Classrooms (2)
 - P-6 classrooms (21)

- French Immersion cohort in “The Crush” together
- English grades 3-6 in the new modular building
- COVID-19 Protocols
 - Still working on following health protocols (masks, sanitizer)
 - Mask Wearing: classes wearing masks earn raffle tickets towards a Class Pizza Party
 - 2 regular custodians, along with an additional custodian for nightly sanitation
- New Modulares
 - Heat Pumps hooked up
 - Bathrooms almost finished

c) Extra-Curriculars

- Halifax Regional Fine Arts Specialist
 - Kim Reardon working on playground/asphalt stencils
 - Working with grade 6 students
- Student Vote Canada
 - Students in grades 4-6 did mock vote for provincial elections
- Terry Fox Walk
 - Postponed to Tuesday, Oct. 5
 - Toonies for Terry continuing to be collected
- Orange Shirt Day
 - Being recognized on Wednesday, September 29
 - No school on Thursday, September 30 in order to recognize Truth and Reconciliation Day

d) Finance

- Collecting money
 - E-transfers from families directly to school
 - Ex: for yearbooks
- Playground Grant
 - \$25,000
 - Outdoor classroom looking at being built
 - Trying to determine where it will be
- Building Manager (hired by HRCE)
 - Mike McCann
 - Believe he will be helping to take certain tasks off of the administrative staff
- Funds
 - \$4900 still available to be spent to support SSP goals
- Parent Teacher Group (PTG)
 - \$29,679.72 sitting with no allocation
 - Account still open, not closed (need parent authority to shut down)
 - PTG budget normally followed can now be re-established
 - Interested in joining: Melissa Flynn and Erin Davidson

Old Business:

a) SAC funds

- \$4,900 to be used this year
- 1 funding request (put through for December meeting)

b) PTG fate

- Add ‘call out’ for new PTG members in next school newsletter

c) Traffic safety & congestion issues

- Volunteers to help set up pylons at 8:30am, to help with traffic safety

- Request put in for crossing guard on Castle Park and Downing Street. Marion is in contact with HRM about this. Looking into having a supervisor come do a 'count' of the crosswalk, to see if we qualify. Waiting on availability of this HRM supervisor.
- SAC: send thank you letter to parents about following rules

d) New modular buildings and grants

- Already discussed new building and playground grant

e) SAC Annual Report

- On school website for the community to access

New Business:

a) New SAC community member

- Hopefully increase the diversity of our SAC membership
- Someone who is cognizant of the need for the school to be an inclusive environment
- Lead: Catherine Morris (Marion to call)
- Lead: Emma Lasie? Takes care of some students at Grosvenor (Marion to talk to)
- Lead: Jessie-Lee McIsaac to send message to neighbours in community social media group

b) Possible Sub-committees

- Grounds (beautification, playground, garden)
- Believe there is an interest in this (parent volunteers)
- Frame as a PTG event?
- Idea: send survey to families to see parents skills/interests so that we can tap into them
- Jemima to form group, but looking for someone else to lead it
- Could enhance the space around the new playground grant construction

c) Pre-primary drop-off time

- Is at 9am
- Some drop older students off at 8:40am, then have to wait until 9:00am for pre-primary to start
- This is an HRCE program specific decided by the supervisor

d) Recess/Lunch configurations

- 4 recess times
 - Teachers set their own based on their schedules
 - Helps to spread the students out
- 2 lunch hours
 - Staffing would be difficult to hire enough staff for 23 classrooms for one hour
 - So doing 2 lunch hours, we need less staff, as they work longer shifts (beneficial to all)

Other:

- Staff creating a committee to help rejuvenate the hallways of the school

Funding Request:

- From Jill Macumber (music teacher)
 - Would love to purchase music play online
 - Pre-primary to 6 online music learning site
 - Supported by NS Dept. of Education
 - Used last year during in-school and at-home learning
 - Would be available to all teachers in the school (classrooms, band, strings, learning centre, etc.)
 - Aligns with school's improvement plan (wellbeing goal)
 - Total Cost: \$200 (40 cents per student)

- Will benefit entire student body
- Funding request has been approved!

Dates to Remember:

Meeting Dates for this school year:

- December 7, January 27, March 29, May 10, June 7

Next Meeting Date: December 7th, 2021

Motion to adjourn:

1st: Marion Gates

2nd: Margot Gall

Adjournment: 6:46pm