



Hillside Park Elementary

15 Hillside Avenue - Lower Sackville, NS - B4C 1W6

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Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Vice Principal: Emily Ripley-Davis

Administrative Assistant: Carol Sheldon

SAC/PTG Meeting Minutes - September 9th, 2025

SAC Meeting Minutes:

Present: Jacquelyn Reid, Emily-Ripley-Davis, Tasha Pitcher, RYanne Hamblin, Jen MacIsaac, Candice Foster, Stephanie Sudsbury, Doris Boyd, Darlene Joyce, Nicole Jackson, Jodi Gordon, Nicole Evanson.

Regrets: Rose MacAuley

Call to Order: 6:05pm

Review the role of the SAC:

- Letter of Agreement
- Reviewed by-laws
- Set the dates for remaining meetings

Hillside Park Vision and Values:

Our Vision:

At Hillside Park, we believe every member of our school community deserves a safe, inclusive, and joyful place to learn and grow. We embrace high expectations and a growth mindset, knowing that learning takes courage, curiosity, and care. We value strong relationships and the unique contributions of our students, staff, and families. We are building a culture of respect, responsibility, and safety~ because Hillside Park Huskies stick together!

Our Core Values:

Equity & Belonging: We nurture a safe and welcoming environment where we honour and uplift everyone's identity, voice, and lived experience. We are stronger together—students, staff, families, and community members.

Joyful Learning: We embrace learning through a growth mindset, perseverance, and creativity. We celebrate the progress of everyone's unique learning journey and believe that all students can experience academic excellence.

Responsibility, Respect, & Safety: We model and teach these values through our words, actions, and relationships, creating a community where everyone can grow and thrive.

Student Success Plan:

The Student Success Planning (SSP) framework is developed to guide school communities in using an equitable and systematic way of planning school improvement by identifying measurable goals that are rigorous yet attainable. Below you will find the goals and objectives Hillside Park Elementary has worked on over the course of the past year; specifically third term. The SSP goals are directly used to enhance student learning and achievement; the development and growth of SSP goals are based on student needs. SSP goals are also deeply rooted in the inclusion policy and culturally responsive teaching practices.

June 2025 SSP:

Literacy Goal: We will improve achievement in literacy for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.

Cycle 3

High Impact Strategy...

- Teachers will explicitly teach and model **elaboration** (adding relevant details, specific description, and examples to develop ideas)
- Teachers will provide regular opportunities for students to apply these strategies during daily Writers' Workshop

Mathematics Goal: We will improve achievement in mathematics for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.

Cycle 3

High Impact Strategy...

P-3 Tier 1 Strategy:

- Teachers will explicitly teach and model addition and subtraction strategies together during whole-class instruction, with a focus on building students' understanding of the relationship between the two operations and promoting flexible thinking

4-5 Tier 2 Strategy:

- Teachers will provide targeted, small-group intervention for students not meeting the grade-level benchmark in addition and subtraction, with a focus on strengthening computational fluency through strategy development and the use of efficient, flexible methods

Well-Being Goal: We will improve well-being at our school for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.

Cycle 3

High Impact Strategy:

- We will foster a school-wide culture of a growth mindset to support student resilience, perseverance, and belief in their ability to grow and succeed, aligned with Hillside Park's focus on well-being and the concept of Netukulimk (Respect, Responsibility, Relationships, Reciprocity)

Principal's Report:

- **School Opening:** In the last five years, enrolment has increased by almost 10, 000 students. As our region's population expands, new families register within our system on an ongoing basis. At Hillside our current enrollment is at 200 students.
- **Configuration & Staffing:** New Staff include: M. Bond (P/1), A. Tingley (ECE), H. Boulilier (40% Coverage), V. Tacain (Librarian). As well as N. Humadi (EAL), C. Lee, D. Anderson (EPA), A. Malaya (EPA), J. Ytoc (EPA), A. Jennett (EPA), C. Rideout (Pysch).
- **HRCE P-3 Literacy Initiative:** The HRCE P-3 Literacy Initiative is a comprehensive strategy to improve early literacy for students in Primary to Grade 3. Key components include focusing on core literacy skills like oral language, reading, and writing, using a multi-tiered system of supports to provide individualized instruction, and administering a Grade 3 Literacy assessment to measure progress.
- **Revised Curriculum 3-6 Curriculum:** The Nova Scotia curriculum for grades 3-6 is being revised to focus on developing skills for a changing world, with a strong emphasis on English Language Arts and Essential Graduation Competencies. Key areas include foundational literacy skills, critical thinking, creativity, and communication across all subjects. The curriculum is designed to scaffold learning, with increasing complexity in tasks and texts from grade to grade, and integrates technology to support learning.
- **Fact Fluency Priority:** HRCE's fact fluency priority is concentrated on the development of computational fluency. This is achieved through a progression of learning that starts with understanding and using mental math strategies, and moves toward efficient computation for larger numbers. Key expectations include mastering basic facts, using strategies like doubling and the distributive property, and understanding concepts like the zero property of multiplication.
- **Continued Focus on Wellbeing and Equity:** Creating environments where everyone can thrive by addressing systemic barriers and ensuring fair access to resources through our schools SSP goals, the inclusive education policy, etc.
- **Indigo Grant & Library Makeover:** The 2025-2026 school year is our second year of the Indigo Love of Reading grant. Nine thousand dollars worth of books have been added to our Library shelves and students in all grade levels are enjoying the amazing new selection of books! Books with a focus on culturally responsive literature and non-fiction texts have been the largest focus. Staff and students have been collaborating to establish a nature themed Library makeover including new tables, shelving and murals.
- **SAC Innovation Grant:** The SAC Innovation Fund provides grants up to \$10,000 to SACs to support innovative ideas to support student achievement and well-being

and address real problems experienced by students and schools. This funding is intended to provide an opportunity to add value to the educational experience of students at their school. This year our school has received \$10,000 for an Interactive Storytelling and Digital Literacy Lab.

- **SAC Conference:** Ryanne (SAC Chair) and Jacquelyn will attend the conference on Nov 28th, 2025 to represent Hillside and our learning community.
- **Hillside 70th Anniversary:** Hillside Park was first constructed in 1956 and will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year! The goal is to have two events; an open house and large-scale Spring Fling in April and May to celebrate 70 years of Hillside Park. The Hillside PTG will be seeking donations from community businesses to help support these endeavors.
- **Building Security:** Fire drills, lockdown drills, and hold and secure drills, will take place throughout the year (3 in the fall, and 3 in the spring). Our table top relocation drill will be reviewed at our first staff meeting.
- **Safety in Schools:** Safety is a top priority in all schools throughout HRCE. The Nova Scotia Auditor General, Kim Adair, released her June 11th, 2024 Report to the House of Assembly. The audit examined incidents of violence in schools and how the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the Regional Centres for Education, and Conseil Scolaire Acadien provincial are maintaining the safety of their students and educators.
- **Code of Conduct:** The objective of the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy (Code of Conduct) is to establish and maintain safe and inclusive learning and working environments in our school communities. The Code of Conduct establishes expectations for acceptable behaviour of children and students and provides guidance on how schools should respond to and accurately record incidents of unacceptable behaviour. The Code of Conduct supports well-being and achievement by promoting respect of the rights, property, and safety of all. It establishes predictable consequences and pathways for addressing unacceptable behaviour in schools, ensuring responses are clear, consistent, timely, restorative, and equitable. The policy can be found here: [Policy](#)
- **School Wide Matrix of Expectations:** A school-wide matrix of expectations provides a clear and consistent framework for behavior across all settings. It helps staff and students understand what is expected, promotes a positive school culture, and supports a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment.
- **Breakfast Baskets:** Each class has a basket of breakfast foods that classroom teachers will place within their classrooms every morning. Snacks will continue to be provided as needed at the office. A few staff and community volunteers have offered to do special breakfasts' like toast every few weeks.
- **Provincial Lunch Program:** This program will continue for the 2025-2026 school year. This program is a pay-what-you-can program, meaning families can choose to pay the full \$6.50 cost of the lunch, part of the cost, or nothing. All payment

information is kept confidential. Lunch will start in schools on Sept. 15th, with ordering opening two weeks before the first lunches are served. Website: <https://nslunch.ca/> The Lunch Lady will continue to be our lunch provider.

- **Provincial Cell Phone Policy:** Starting in the 2024-25 school year, all students must turn off their mobile devices and store them out of sight during instructional time. Limited exceptions, like junior high and high school teachers allowing cell phone use in class for instructional purposes, will be available.
- **Attendance and Engagement Policy:** The goal of this policy is to ensure students are in classes building their knowledge and lessening learning gaps.
- **Celebrating Students:** Fantastic Friday Phone Calls and Hillside High Five Assemblies will continue this year.
- **Events/Opportunities:**
 - Stand Up Against Bullying Day: Sept 11th
 - School Pictures: Sept 16th - Paul Adams, owner of Adams Photography will be taking our school pictures again this year
 - Curriculum Night and Ice Cream Social: Sept 18th, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm
 - Terry Fox Run: Sept 18th - Mr. Sutton will lead our school run.
 - Orange Shirt Day: Sept 26th - This day is designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation.
 - Choir: Ms. Ripley-Davis will be directing choir on Thursdays at recess
 - Milk Sports Fair: Oct. 16th - Mr. Sutton has organized a trip for upper elementary students to attend the Milk Sports Fair. The Milk Sport Fair is a fully-interactive sporting event and an excellent opportunity for students to get active and learn about the many sport options available in Nova Scotia.

SAC Funds:

- It is noted that each school is given \$5,000.00 plus a dollar for every student within the school yearly, which is approximately \$5200 for the SAC at Hillside Park.
- This year's funding plus the carry-over from last year of \$3860 gives us approximately \$9000.00.
- SAC Members will vote for the use of funds for the 2025-26 school year.

Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates:

- Oct 7th
- Nov 4th
- Jan 6th
- Feb 3rd
- Apr 7th
- May 5th
- June 9th

New Business:**School Events (building bookings):**

- Oct 23 - Halloween Howl
 - Nov 20
 - Jan 15
 - Feb 12
 - Apr 23 - 70th Anniversary Open House
 - May 28 - Spring Fling
 - June
-

PTG Meeting Minutes:

PTG: (Parent-Teacher Group)

NOTES:

- The PTG will meet in October to discuss, organize and prepare for the upcoming Halloween Howl taking place on Oct 23rd. Tasha Pitcher volunteered to provide cardboard boxes of different sizes to help prepare for Halloween Howl.
- Ms. Ripley-Davis & Ms Nicole will be collaborating with students in Craft Club throughout the month of October to create decorations for the Haunted House during Halloween Howl.
- PTG members are encouraged to think of possible community businesses that could help support the Halloween Howl through candy, chips, prizes, monetary funds, etc.
- PTG members are encouraged to think of ideas for school events.
- It was shared that families are interested in a whole school trip.
- It was also noted that families are interested in having the new HRA Circus Program work with our older students.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:56 pm

Submitted By:

Emily Ripley-Davis
Vice Principal
Hillside Park Elementary