

SAC Meeting Minutes - January 6th, 2026

Present: Jacquelyn Reid, Emily-Ripley-Davis, Tasha Pitcher, RYanne Hamblin, Jen MacIsaac, Candice Foster, Stephanie Sudsbury, Doris Boyd, Darlene Joyce, Cheryl Brann, Tammy McMullin, Nicole Jackson, Jodi Gordon, Rose MacAuley, Jose Base, Jaine Base, Sarah Harrison, Jenna Norman

Regrets: Candice Foster, Jose Base, Jaine Base, Sarah Harrison, Jenna Norman

Call to Order: 6:01 PM

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Approved

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 a sample of the goals and objectives Hillside Park Elementary has worked on over the course of the past year. 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.

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 2

High Impact Strategies:

- Teachers will provide structured opportunities for students to respond to literature through discussion and written responses
- Teachers will explicitly model and guide the connections between reading and writing, helping students analyze how authors' choices in texts inform their own writing.

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 2

High Impact Strategies:

- Teachers will provide students with regular opportunities to solve real-world math problems, helping them connect math concepts to everyday situations.
- Teachers will provide structured practice with multi-step problems, helping students apply personal strategies to reach a solution.

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 2

High Impact Strategy:

- We will create classroom routines that encourage students to take risks, share ideas, and view mistakes as part of learning.
- We will teach and model strategies that help students stay with challenging tasks, encouraging them to try multiple approaches before seeking help.

Principal's Report:

- **Student Success Plan:** Staff are beginning to work with students on our school's cycle two goals. We will continue to build upon our school matrix and what it looks like in different areas of the school.
- **Staffing Update:** We would like to welcome Shelley Drake, our new administrative assistant, and Kate Daley, who will be our new PE teacher starting in February. We currently have an ECE position for the PP class posted, as well as a 50% EPA position.

- **Indigo Grant & Library Makeover:** So far this year, the school has received 289 new books. We have one final book order this month for this fiscal year. The school art specialist, Ms. Allan, has been working with students to complete the library mural painting in the front entrance of the Library and makerspace. Our stool seating has arrived. Looking to have a “Little Library” built and placed in the outdoor classroom; used books can be placed in the “Little Library” so families can have access to books anytime.
- **SchoolCash Online:** SchoolCash Online is an easy-to-use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. As a school, we have begun to use this process for school field trips, t-shirts, etc.
- **Husky T-Shirts:** For families looking to purchase school t-shirts, there are plenty left over from our previous order. They can be purchased for \$12.00 each.
- **Choir:** This year, 45 students from grades 3-5 participated in the choir program. Choir students sang at the school Remembrance Day ceremony and at the Holiday Concert. Choir members also auditioned for the National Orff NS Conference, along with Grade 4/5 Cawthra - the result will be announced Jan. 15th.
- **SAC Innovation Grant:** As a school, we received \$10 000 for our Interactive Storytelling and Digital Literacy Lab. We have purchased subscriptions to digital resources such as Pobble and We Will Write. Tables, puppets, puppet stands, and a portable puppet stage with tripods have also been purchased. iPads, digital cameras, headsets with microphones, and ring lighting will be purchased next.
- **SAC Provincial Conference Nov. 28:** This provincial conference provides principals and SAC chairs the opportunity to connect, learn, and engage in meaningful dialogue to support student success across Nova Scotia. Mrs. Reid and our chair, Rynne, both attended the conference. Our SAC Innovation Grant project was also highlighted as well.
- **Museum of Natural History:** Ms. Gordon, Mr. MacNeil, and Ms. Kelloway took students to the Natural History museum, where they discovered different exhibits, including the Forest, Pjila'si, and Marine Gallery.
- **Hope for Wildlife Visit:** Students in Grades 3G and 3/4B had Hope for Wildlife come into their classrooms, presenting and showcasing local wildlife. The presentation featured a variety of education on different animals, all of whom are permanent residents at their facility.
- **Holiday Concert:** This year's theme was “*Winter Wonder Workshop*.” Students from each grade level selected their own tunes; some selected to sing and others decided to play ensembles. Both the afternoon and evening concerts were well attended.
- **Spirit Days & Hot Chocolate:** Huge thank you to the PTG members who were able to support and deliver hot chocolate to students. Overall, students and staff enjoyed

and embraced all spirit days during the holiday season. During our December Hillside High 5 Awards, students and staff participated in a sing-along.

- **Discovery Centre- Science on the Road:** The Discovery Centre's Science on the Road program brings hands-on, curriculum-connected science workshops and demonstrations directly to classrooms across Nova Scotia, with educators delivering engaging experiments and activities tailored to each grade level.
- **Upcoming School Events:**
 - ➔ Math Circles - Jan 12th
 - ➔ Science Club - Throughout January (Mrs. Cawthra)
 - ➔ Oral Health Month - February (Ms. Nicole is coordinating a dental hygienist to visit classes in P-2, and all students will be provided a free toothbrush and toothpaste)
 - ➔ Breakfast & Books - Feb 27th

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 \$3860.00, gives us approximately \$9000.00.
- SAC Members will vote for the use of funds for the 2025-26 school year: Items SAC members wish to support/fund this year include:
 - ➔ Outdoor Equipment for Students: such as balls, skipping ropes, etc.
 - ➔ Rainy Day Bins for all classes: P-5
 - ➔ Library Storage & Shelving: Updating shelving or painting current library storage.
 - ➔ School Signs Updated with the NEW school logo

Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates:

- Feb 3
- Apr 7
- May 5
- June 9

New Business:

School Events (building bookings)

- Jan 15 - Movie Night
- Feb 12 - Valentine's Family Dance (Glow-in-the-dark)
- Apr 23 - Bingo
- May 28 - Spring Fling

PTG Meeting Minutes - January 6th, 2026

PTG Upcoming Events:

- **School-wide Movie Night (Jan. 15th):** PTG members have selected four movies for students to vote on to view - Madagascar / Monsters Inc. / Trolls / Mario. Students voted to watch the new Mario movie. There will be a suggested donation of \$10.00 per family. Canteen items will need to be purchased for the event. An audio cable will also need to be purchased for the event to connect the computer to the overhead speaker system. The PTG is seeking volunteers to help work the front door as families arrive as well as the canteen during the movie.

New Business:

- School Events (building bookings)
 - Feb 12 - Valentine's Family Dance (Glow-in-the-dark)
 - Apr 23 - Bingo
 - May 28 - Spring Fling

Notes:

- **Breakfast & Books:** PTG Members were asked to help serve and prepare breakfast for students the day of the event (Feb. 27th).
- **Indigo Grant:** As part of the Indigo Literacy Grant, members were asked if they knew of anyone locally that may be interested in building a "Little Library" for the outdoor classroom. Nicole suggested that her husband Sam could possibly create the "Little Library" for the school. This project needs to be completed by the end of school year.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:41 PM

Submitted By:

Emily Ripley-Davis

Vice Principal

Hillside Park Elementary