



Hillside Park Elementary

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Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Vice Principal: Emily Ripley-Davis

Administrative Assistant: Shelley Drake

SAC Meeting Minutes - Feb 3rd, 2026

Present: Jacquelyn Reid, Emily-Ripley-Davis, Tasha Pitcher, Ryanne Hamblin, Jen MacIsaac, Stephanie Sudsbury, Doris Boyd, Darlene Joyce, Jodi Gordon, Rose MacAuley, Erin Dunn, Cheryl Brann, Nicole Evanson, Nicole Jackson, Candice Foster, Adrienne Kidd.

Regrets: Jose Base, Jaine Base, Sarah Harrison, Jenna Norman.

Call to Order: 6:01 pm

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

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:** The SSP plan is developed collaboratively with teachers, support staff, families, and the students, and is regularly reviewed to monitor progress and adjust strategies as needed. Please see above for cycle 2 goals.
- **Staffing Update:** Welcome to Ms. Katelyn Daley as she joins our Hillside Park teams as our new PE teacher. We also want to welcome Ms. Paige Aziz our new 50% EPA. Ms. Ripley-Davis will be on maternity leave as of Monday March 2nd and Ms Dunn will be taking on the role of Acting Vice Principal. We are still waiting to confirm who will be covering as our schools Music Educator until June.
- **Math Circles:** On Jan 12th, students received handson presentations from Math Circles, an outreach program that engages students through interactive, hands-on math activities that promote curiosity and enjoyment of learning. The program emphasizes creative problem-solving and enrichment.
- **Family Movie Night:** The PTG-hosted Family Movie Night took place on January 15 in the school gym and was well attended by families from our community. Students voted to watch The Super Mario Bros. Movie, making for a fun and engaging evening. Thank you to all staff and parent volunteers whose time and effort helped make the event such a success.
- **Science Club:** During lunchtime once a week, Ms. Cawthra, our Grade 4/5 teacher has been offering an opportunity for students in our upper grade levels to participate in Science Club. This platform provides students with hands-on opportunities to experiment and explore new scientific concepts in a fun, engaging environment.
- **MultiCultural Club:** The Multicultural Club, led by Ms. Nicole and the SchoolsPlus team, meets weekly at lunchtime as a multi-week program. It provides students with a chance to explore and celebrate the diverse cultures represented within our school community.
- **Hillside Park Winter Olympics:** On January 30th, a schoolwide Winter Olympics-themed Field Day took place to celebrate school spirit and honour the

retirement of beloved PE teacher Mr. Sutton. Students rotated through 15-minute stations inspired by Olympic events, including bobsleigh, hockey, curling, alpine slalom, speed skating, a torch relay, and an Olympic learning station about Italy and the Games' origins. Grade 5 students led teams, and staff supported each station, making the morning a memorable and joyful farewell.

- **African Heritage Month:** African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, is celebrated each February, and highlights the rich history, achievements, and resilience of African Nova Scotians over more than 400 years. This year's theme, "*Strength in Unity: Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress,*" emphasizes the importance of collective effort, shared purpose, and ongoing commitment to building a stronger, more connected future.
- **Lockdown Drill:** Our routine school lockdown drill is scheduled to take place next week, between February 9th and 13th.
- **Africa Festival of Arts and Culture Society Presentation:** The Africa Festival of Arts and Culture Society (AFACS) hosted a whole-school assembly on February 9, promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion by highlighting the contributions of African Canadians. The engaging presentation explored African culture, the history of Black and African Nova Scotian communities, and featured traditional music and instruments, with strong student participation and involvement from staff throughout.
- **Oral Health Presentation:** On February 9th, students from Primary Reed to 2/3 MacNeil will attend an Oral Health Presentation in the library, organized by Ms. Nicole. The session will focus on important dental care topics, such as proper brushing and flossing techniques. All students will receive a new toothbrush, toothpaste, and other dental supplies to take home.
- **Glow-in-the-Dark Dance:** The Glow-in-the-Dark Dance will take place on Friday, February 12th, from 6–7 pm in the gym with a \$5.00 suggested entry fee. Hosted by the PTG, the event features rented and donated lighting, a playlist curated by the school admin team, and the school's sound system. Students and families are welcome to bring their own glow items, and additional glow sticks and accessories will be available for purchase at the dance.
- **Valentines Day:** Hillside Park will celebrate Valentine's Day on Friday, February 13th. Classrooms exchanging valentines will contact families in advance, and extra valentine cards will be available at the school for students who need them. The school will also provide a few snacks for each class to enjoy.
- **Mother Language Day:** Our school celebrated Mother Language Day on February 18th, organized by EAL teacher Noor Humadi with support from the Schools Plus team. Families and staff shared stories, books, and cultural traditions in their first languages, fostering respect, curiosity, and a sense of belonging among students.

Additional resources and bilingual books were provided to enhance classroom activities.

- **Breakfast & Books:** Led by Ms. Nicole and Ms. Ripley-Davis, Breakfast & Books, brought the whole school together on February 26th for a café-style breakfast in the gym. With support from staff and the PTG, students enjoyed a variety of breakfast items prepared by each class. Two students per class were selected to receive a book to take home and grow their personal libraries. A special thank you to Ms. Nicole, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Cawthra, and the Pre-Primary team for coordinating and organizing the food. This event was a wonderful way to kick off March Nutrition Month while fostering a strong sense of community and school spirit.
- **Matt the Music Man Presentation:** On Feb 27th, Matt McFarlane, a NS musician, brought an engaging and interactive musical experience to students, combining humour, storytelling, and a variety of instruments. Through his performance, he promoted important messages of self-confidence and respect while encouraging students to sing, clap, and actively participate throughout the show.
- **Coins for Books:** Hillside Park is once again participating in the Tattletales Annual Coins for Books campaign during the whole month of February. This community initiative, run by Tattletales Books, supports local schools by collecting coins from students, which are matched or bolstered by the bookstore through community sponsorships, to purchase new books. Since 2007, the campaign has placed over \$1.5 million worth of books into Halifax Regional Centre for Education schools. Students are invited to bring in coins throughout the month, building on last year's success as the top fundraising school. The month will also feature fun spirit days, including Pajama Day (Feb 6th), Valentine's colours (Feb 3rd), Bring Your Favourite Book and Stuff (Feb 20th), and a Hawaiian Beach Party (Feb 27th).
- **School Signs:** SAC and PTG members have agreed to start planning to update both the main school building sign and the front sign with the flower bed. The new signs will feature an updated school logo and colours, enhancing the school's curb appeal in time for its upcoming 70th Anniversary celebration.
- **Writers In The Schools Presentations (WITS)** - Over the next few weeks WITS, a program where award-winning Nova Scotian authors present to students in elementary and secondary schools, fostering students' love of reading and writing while supporting the development of their literacy skills. We have booked Nancy Rose as well as two additional authors for the upper grades.

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 have voted to purchase new exterior signs, outdoor equipment for students: such as balls, skipping ropes, etc., rainy day bins with different resources within for all classes, Library Storage & Shelving - the goal is to either update the shelving by purchasing new shelving or painting the current library shelving units.

Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates:

- Apr 7th
- May 5th
- June 9th

New Business:

School Events (building bookings):

- Feb 12th - Valentine's Family Dance
- Apr 23rd - Bingo
- May 28th - Spring Fling
- June - School Ice Cream Social; highlighting the schools 70th Anniversary

PTG Meeting Minutes - Feb 3rd, 2026

PTG: (Parent-Teacher Group)

- PTG members are encouraged to think of ideas for school events
- It was shared that families are interested in a whole school trip.
- PTG members were asked to support the Breakfast & Books program through food prep and surviving students during the event.
- PTG discussed updating the school signs and are looking to reach out to community businesses to assist in the update. Principal, Jacquelyn Reid has a contact that she will also be reaching out to.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:57 pm

Submitted By:

Emily Ripley-Davis
Vice Principal
Hillside Park Elementary