



Hillside Park Elementary

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

Tel # (902) 864-6873 Website: hpe.hrce.ca Email: hpes@hrce.ca

Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Acting Vice Principal: Erin Dunn

Administrative Assistant: Shelley Drake

SAC Meeting Minutes- April 7, 2026

Present: Jacquelyn Reid, Tasha Pitcher, Ryanne Hamblin, Stephanie Sudsbury, Doris Boyd, Darlene Joyce, Jodi Gordon, Rose MacAuley, Erin Dunn, Nicole Evanson, Nicole Jackson

Regrets: Candice Foster, Jen MacIsaac, Cheryl Brann

Call to Order

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 3

High Impact Strategies:

- Teachers will provide regular opportunities for students to engage in the full writing and production process (drafting, revising, editing, peer editing, and publishing), with a focus on producing polished pieces for authentic audiences.
- Teachers will integrate digital literacy tools and the Digital Literacy Lab to support students in creating, sharing, and publishing multimodal texts, while intentionally teaching skills related to editing, feedback, and quality improvement.

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 Strategies:

- Teachers will implement structured problem-solving routines to support students in making sense of problems, identifying what is being asked, and determining appropriate strategies before solving
- Teachers will intentionally build a classroom culture that promotes perseverance and risk-taking by providing regular opportunities for students to engage in challenging tasks, share thinking, and reflect on their problem-solving processes.

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:

- Staff will explicitly teach, model, and consistently reinforce age-appropriate skills for positive play and conflict resolution across all settings (classroom, playground, common areas), using common language connected to the behaviour matrix.

Principal's Report:

- Student Success Plan
- Arrival of a Baby Husky!
- Hillside Park Winter Olympics
- African Heritage Month
- Africa Festival of Arts and Culture Society Presentation
- Matt the Music Man Presentation
- Breakfast & Books

Coins for Books: The fundraiser has raised nearly \$5,000 so far, and books are continuing to come in. We will prepare a note next year explaining why students are collecting and what they are fundraising for in case they want to go around their neighbourhood.

Report Cards: Reports were successfully distributed and have been stored. Staff connected with families during progress conferences to discuss student progress.

Registration Month: Enrollment appears to be on par with the past few years. Budgets have not yet been released so there is no word on staffing for next year at this time.

Language and Literacy Lab at Dalhousie University (grade 1s): Dalhousie students will be working with a group of grade 1s, tracking and supporting their early literacy skills over

a five-year period. This longitudinal study began last year when the cohort was in grade primary, and updates are provided to teachers and families.

Upcoming:

School Photography: The SAC discussed school photography and noted that Paul last provided photos two years ago. Members agreed to explore other options, including reviewing what Matt the Music Man offers before making a decision. A final choice on a photographer will be made at the next meeting, with the option to request Paul again if preferred.

Fire Drill this week: We will be holding a fire drill right after recess. This is the fifth of six required drills.

Multicultural Day: Noor, Nicole and Achala will collaborate to develop and deliver an in-house program for students. Support and availability are being sought to assist with initiatives.

French Language Day: On April 17th, there will be a series of activities including butter making, maple syrup demonstrations, a performance, and a poutine party. Stations will run from 9:05 to 1:40. Additional volunteers are welcome to help support the event. This day has been organized by our Core French teacher, Mme. Purcell. Many of the associated costs will be covered by the French Language grant.

Writers in the Schools (WITS) Author Visits- Nancy Rose, Andy Tolson, Briana Scott: Three authors will be visiting. Nancy Rose, author of *The Secret Life of Squirrels*, Breanna Scott, an author and illustrator from Peggy's Cove, will visit most classes and share her work, including *Sable Island*. Andy Tolson, a local author, will work with older students and lead a workshop focused on heroes and villains.

Grade 3 Provincial Assessment Preparation: Students will write their assessment over 4 days- 2 days of Literacy and two days of Math. Communication will be sent home to families.

Hillside Park Huskies Mural in Gym: Our Husky mural has begun! Art Specialist Stacy Allam has been working with our Grade 5 students to help bring the mural to life.

Professional Learning on April 29th- Professional Learning on April 29th is currently in the planning stages. Time will be set aside for 3-5 teachers to review and examine the revised upper elementary literacy curriculum which will be implemented in September. P-2 teachers will have an opportunity to delve further into the renewed curriculum which is currently in its implementation year.

School Events: Bingo on April 23 and Spring Fling on May 28

Spring Fling Planning: Planning is underway for fundraising and event activities, including donation letters and sponsorship outreach. A variety of stations and attractions are being considered, such as HRM mascots, canteen, BBQ, Plinko, spin-the-wheel, ring toss, hockey shootout, laser toss, and “knock down the teeth.” Other activities may include a cupcake walk, sucker pull, guess-the-candy jar, canteen, 50/50 draw, raffle baskets, and prizes for kids.

Class raffle baskets will be individualized with themes like gardening, spa, creative, chef, beach, reading, and sweet treats. Additional entertainment options include glitter or airbrush tattoos (possibly a single school-themed design like a husky paw), a petting zoo, and a “Sackville Chat” highlighting the history of horses behind the school. Balloon twisting and face painting are noted as expensive, and bouncy castles will not be included.

The event will also celebrate the school’s 70th anniversary and focus on building school spirit.

SAC Funds:

- Each school receives \$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 for all classes, Library Storage & Shelving: Updating shelving or painting current library storage.

Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates:

- May 5
- June 9

New Business:

School Events (building bookings)

- Apr 23- Bingo
- May 28 Spring Fling
- June

Meeting Adjourned:

Submitted By:

Erin Dunn~ Acting Vice Principal
Hillside Park Elementary