



15 Hillside Avenue • Lower Sackville, NS • B4C 1W6 • Tel # (902) 864-6873

Website: [hpe.hrce.ca](http://hpe.hrce.ca) • Email: [hpes@hrce.ca](mailto:hpes@hrce.ca) • Twitter: @HillsidePark1

Principal: Jacquelyn Reid    Vice Principal: Emily Ripley-Davis    Admin Assistant: Carol Sheldon

## SAC / PTG Minutes for Tuesday, April 25th, 2023

**Present:** Tammy McMullin, Christina Dorey, Ryanne Hamblin, Jacquelyn Reid, Emily Ripley-Davis, Cheryl Brann, Stephanie Dube, Tasha Pitcher, Kellee Mackenzie, Nicole Evanson

**Regrets:** Amani Alzubairi, Rose Marshall, Allison Hakkert-Sly

**Call to Order:** 6:00pm

### School Advisory Committee (SAC) Minutes

#### **Student Success Plan:**

**Literacy Goal:** We will improve student achievement in Literacy

**High Impact Strategy:** Teachers will provide opportunities for students to explore the reciprocity between reading and writing.

**High Impact Strategy:** Teachers will incorporate the Science of Reading into daily literacy workshop.

**Mathematics Goal:** We will improve student achievement in Mathematics

**High Impact Strategy 1:** Teachers will dedicate a protected block of instruction to strengthening students' number sense / computational fluency.

**Well-Being Goal:** We will improve student wellbeing at our school.

**High Impact Strategy:**  
Teachers will implement whole group lessons around self regulation strategies and problem solving.

**Continued focus on wellbeing and equity (anchored in the Inclusive Education Policy)**

- ★ 4.1 Every student can learn with enough time, practice and equitable and responsive teaching.
- ★ 4.5 Every student deserves to belong (affirmed, validated, and nurtured), to be safe, and feel welcomed in all aspects of their daily experience.
- ★ 4.6 Inclusive education is a commitment to honour and respect each student’s cultural and linguistic identities and knowledge systems

**HRCE P-2 Literacy Initiative**

End of September		
Total # of Students (P-2)	Total # of Students Meeting	Total # of Students not there yet
78	49 (63%)	29 (37%)

End of October		
Total # of Students (P-2)	Total # of Students Meeting	Total # of Students not there yet
79	59 (75%)	20 (25%)

End of November		
Total # of Students (P-2)	Total # of Students Meeting	Total # of Students not there yet
76	49 (79%)	29 (21%)

End of January		
Total # of Students (P-2)	Total # of Students Meeting	Total # of Students not there yet
79	58 (74%)	21 (26%)

End of March		
Total # of Students (P-2)	Total # of Students Meeting	Total # of Students not there yet
79	62 (78%)	17 (22%)

**Pineapple Photography Presentation (School Pictures 2023-2024)**

-Pineapple Photography is a modernized photography copy that provides affordable photography options for families. Pineapple Photography the first photography studio locally to offer single file digit sales and offers multiple authentic poses for families, with no pressures to purchase photo packages as their digital images can be purchased individually and there is no minimum purchase requirement. One digital photograph costs \$15.00, accessing it in perpetuity; on average each learner will have approximately 10 poses to choose from.

-Families have been very receptive to digital photography downloads and all photos are taken on a green screen which allows families to select their own backgrounds. Families will receive a QR Code to obtain their learners’ photos; the school will also have copies in case they are misplaced. Class composites or class

group photos are an option as well. The SAC discussed and confirmed that a class composite would be the best fit for our school community. Pineapple Photography doesn't provide picture retakes as they provide multiple poses however, the studio is open in the downtown Halifax (1673 Barrington St.) area and all families can connect with them at any time to book a school photo shoot. They would also return to the school to shoot any learners who were absent during picture day.

-The SAC has discussed that they intend on hiring Pineapple Photography (3 yr contract) and would prefer that they take learners' photos over the course of two days during the morning.

-A Grade 5 class photo option was discussed as a possible option. Pineapple Photography doesn't produce the individual learner birthday photo cards that learners currently receive on their birthdays.

### **SAC Funds \$13,024.36**

The SAC will use the funds to purchase items for the school such as:

- Flexible Seating
- Chromebook cart for the downstairs classrooms
- Book order(s) from Tattletales

**NOTE:** The administration team and Christina have a meeting scheduled with Councillor Paul Russell for Wednesday April 26th, 2023 to discuss potential funding support for the Spring Fling as well as financial support for the Library improvement project (flexible seating, modern/versatile desks).

### **Principal's Report:**

#### **2023-2024 School Year:**

- **Enrolment:** Currently our school enrolment is projected at 189 students
- **Registration/Allocation:** The eligible Pre Primary students from this year will be included in the registration numbers. The current enrolment numbers do not accurately reflect the projected number of students for next year, specifically Pre Primary. Our allocation as of April 25th is 1 Pre-Primary class and 8 general classrooms; increasing our schools homerooms from 7 to 8. Approximately 15 Pre-Primary students have registered for next year thus far. Due to the increase in enrollment the administration team will be shifting some classrooms and storage to accommodate the new classroom. This also means that school specialist teachers (Music/PE/French) percentages will increase as well, meaning we will most likely have staffing changes.

#### **Recent Events:**

- **Breakfast and Books:** Breakfast and Books was a whole-school breakfast that was organized by students with the assistance of staff. Each class selected a breakfast item and then baked/prepared the item which was served at the program. Staff and volunteers assisted in food preparation along with table & chair setup, music and our read-a-loud. The school purchased 7 books, one for each class, and students were randomly drawn as the recipients of the books. This school-wide program was made possible through community donations and grant money from the Nutrition Month Grant.
- **School Dance:** The school dance took place on April 13th from 6:00pm -7:15pm in the school gym.

True North DJ Services provided a DIY Package rental for \$395 plus tax and it included set up, tear down as well as lights. The kit is equipment rental only, therefore the school was responsible for downloading and playing all music from a device of choice (school computer). Additional floor lights were also rented from Long & McQuade at an approximate cost of \$90.00. Overall the dance was well attended by families.

- **Drama Club (Gr. 3-5):** Through the PERFORM grant program, a local performer named Sherri Lee Hunter will work with students in grade 3-5 developing their drama and theatre skills during six sessions.
- **School Garden Grant (\$1000.00):** Through HRCE healthy schools programming we received a grant for a school food garden. In past years access to water was a concern. Last year a rain water collection device was purchased and will be used this year to help collect water for the garden. It has been suggested that a watering schedule be created so the garden has an opportunity to fully grow and flourish over the summer months. The PTG/SAC have suggested the creation of a sub committee to assist and organize the creation and maintenance of the garden over the summer months. There will be a sign up sheet at the Spring Fling for anyone interested in helping over the summer. Joe Joncas has offered to inquire about a donation of a large rainwater collection mechanism. **Action:** Jacquelyn will look into summer school access for a watering schedule & garden upkeep. Plants should be ones that can be harvested during the fall to enable learners to participate in the collection. **Action:** Christina will provide the school with seeds for the garden through the Square Roots program. Possible plant ideas include: pumpkins, squash, and garlic.
- **French Cultural Connections Grant (\$5000.00):** Mr. Linton and Ms. Ripley-Davis worked collaboratively to apply for and organize the Cultural Connections grant. Through the funds of the grant the school has able to host our first ever “Journée Internationale de la Langue Française” where students in the 4/5 and 3/4 classes participated in a school wide Acadian Tintamerre Parade, French students participated in stations which included French games, books, and films as well as baking mini tourtières and every French student was given a tote bag full of goodies including: pencils, stickers, a t-shirts (J’aime la Française), a locally baked croissant and a locally baked macaron. The funding will also allow for “La Baie en Joie” a francophone Acadian dance troupe from Clare, Nova Scotia to perform workshop sessions for learners and a whole school performance as well.
- **Student Success Survey:** The surveys for the 2022-2023 school year have been completed by students online in grades 4 and 5.
- **Voluntary PD Sessions:** Classroom and specialist teachers were invited to attend an after school voluntary PD sessions with the Sackville Family of Schools (Hillside/Cavalier/Smokey/Caudle Park/Sycamore). Over the past few months, teachers have attended four PD sessions that focused on topics such as the P-2 Literacy Initiative, phonics and phonemic awareness, literacy stations, and new literacy resources/ teaching strategies.

#### Upcoming Events:

- **“Up with Gaelic”:** Will provide our school with a whole school presentation on May 4th.
- **Makerspace Brilliant Labs Grant (\$5000.00):** As a school community we will be purchasing both high tech and low tech to begin to create a makerspace for learners through the funds from this grant.
- **Acadian Dancers (La Baie en Joie):** Will perform on June 2nd as part of the FSL grant funding.
- **Grade 3 Provincial Math and Literacy Assessment:** The assessments will take place on May 16-17, 24-25th These standardized assessments will occur over a two week period. The first week learners will focus on literacy and the second week learners will focus on math.
- **Spring Fling May 18th:** The PTG is seeking donations from local businesses to support this

endeavor.

- ***End of Year Trip (Shubenacadie Wildlife Park):*** On June 14th students in grades P-5 will head to Shubenacadie Wildlife Park for a school-wide field trip. Approximately 15 volunteer chaperones are needed for the trip; families have been invited to complete a Criminal Record Checks & Vulnerable Sector Check to attend the field trip.
- ***Field Day and Variety Show:*** Mr Sutton and Ms. Ripley-Davis will be organizing our schools annual field day and variety show on June 19th (Rain date June 21st). It is sure to be a day full of fun, activities and talent.

### **New Business:**

- The building is booked for our final school event - Spring Fling May 18th

### **Other Buisness:**

- During the meeting, parents inquired about the back playground (graveled area) being fixed to assist in student safety as well as fixing the back windows that have been painted over due to vandalism. Both concerns have been addressed through the school JOHSC. A request has been placed to HRM to fix the back playground and a work order has been placed to HRCE to fix the back windows. Currently there is no timeline for completion.
- Nicole inquired about "*National Walk to School Day*". This event typically occurs during the first Wednesday in the month of October, however "*Walk, Bike & Roll To School*," takes place on May 3rd, 2023. There are challenges with these events as the majority of learners take the bus to school. There was additional discussion about the possibility of a school-wide walking event and Jacquelyn shared that the JOHSC has previously discussed having a whole school community walk to practice the schools' relocation drill/route. More information to follow on possible dates and success of the relocation drill.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

- *May 30*
- *June 20*

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## **Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) Minutes**

### **PTG Funds**

- **Classroom Wish List Funds:** There are still funds in the account as some staff haven't purchased items for their classrooms yet (\$150/teacher).

### **Spring Fling - May 18th**

- The Spring Fling will be set up similar to the Halloween Howl event, with various stations and activities organized around the gym as well as the excel room, music room, library and outdoor basketball court.
- Stations will include: sucker pull, temporary tattoos, cupcake walk, fish pond, spin the wheel, guess the candy jar, lucky duck and ring toss. We have also booked Balloon Twisting Artists, 5 Little Monkeys for face painting and have organized a touch a truck event. The Sackville Library will also attend and have a booth to promote the summer reading program. There will be a 50/50 draw (Ms. Ried has already applied for the license) and a basket raffle. Each class, including Pre Primary will be invited to bring in items to fill the baskets. Various local businesses have also been contacted for donations.
- Tasha, Christina, Nicole & Tammy have offered to make cupcakes if needed for the cupcake walk.
- It has been noted that at the Halloween Howl the Face Painting took a long time. To minimize the time students/families wait it is suggested that any face painting art is small, we could provide a fewer number of options or create a signup sheet with time slots. Action: Ms. Ripley-Davis will discuss options with the Face Painting artists.
- It was discussed that entry fees would provide families with tickets which would be used to "pay" for each station; approximately 25 cents/ticket. It has been decided that all games/activities will be 1-2 tickets each and families will pay \$5.00 / 20 tickets.
- **Basket Raffle:** Basket themes this year include: Gardening Galore, Family Movie/Game Night, Sweet Treats, Spa Sensation, Crafty Creativity, Outdoor Fun, Chef's Gourmet, Lets Go To The Beach and the staff basket will be Blankets & Books. There are raffle tickets already printed in the PTG room that will be used for the event. Families can purchase tickets from \$5.00 each. Individuals can purchase tickets and then place them in the raffle box that matches their selected basket. Christina has ordered the raffle ticket boxes for the baskets. **Action:** Admin team will create a sheet for the basket station that includes name, ticket number & phone number. When notices are sent to families basket donations ideas will be included in the notice. It was noted that the PTG will purchase additional items if needed to fill the baskets. The "baskets" will match each theme. At 7:10pm the basket raffle will close and the draws will begin to see who has won each basket. Photos of each basket will be sent to families prior to the spring Fling.
- **Canteen:** Tasha and Nicole will bring their BBQ's for cooking hot dogs (condiments needed). Ryanne has organized a hot dog bun donation from a local organization. There will be chips, chocolate bars, pop, freezes, and cookies to purchase. We will also reach out to Cineplex (Rose) to see if they are

willing to donate popcorn again. The canteen will be located in the school atrium. Currently we have 127 bags of chips, 150 chocolate bars, approximately 262 freezes, 91 cookies, 384 juice boxes, and 81 bottles of water leftover from past events.

- **Action:** Ms. Reid will create a flyer, promoting the event and a sign up sheet for volunteers
- Prices have been purchased from Smile Makers (<https://www.smilemakerscanada.com/>) For future reference another place to purchase small prizes is Fun Services Canada (<https://shop.funservices.ca/>).
- Donations from Businesses include:
  - \$350.00 cash donation from 1st Electric Inc.
  - \$25.00 Gift Card - Giant Tiger
  - \$50.00 Gift Card - Atlantic Super Store
  - \$25.00 Gift Card - Mediterra Restaurant
  - \$50.00 Gift Card - Atlantic Super Store from Ms Dube
  - Prices (pencils, erasers, skipping ropes, etc. ) from Ms Dube
  - Epicure Packets (7) from Ms Ripley-Davis
  - 2 dozen cupcakes from Miriam's Blooming Bakery
  - 2 dozen cupcakes from Cake N' Shapes (aka Ms Fathima)
  - Variety of items from Locally Baked - Keto Bakery
  - Macrame item from M is for Macrame
  - Scentsy items from Mr. Sutton's daughter
  - 4 dozen chocolate chip cookies from Judy's Dough
  - 12 cake pops from Cake Pops By Angie

Meeting Adjourned: 7:24pm

**Submitted by:** Emily Ripley-Davis