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

SAC / PTG Minutes for Tuesday, September 19th, 2023

Present: Tammy McMullin, Christina Dorey, Jacquelyn Reid, Emily Ripley-Davis, Cheryl Brann, Stephanie Dube, Tasha Pitcher, Nicole Evanson, Rose MacAuley, Justine Macdonald, Taralee Dubray, Adienne Kidd

Regrets: Ryanne Hamblin, Amani Alzubairi, Allison Hakkert-Sly

Call to Order: 6:02 pm

School Advisory Committee (SAC) Minutes

Review the Role of the SAC

Role of Student Advisory Council (SAC): SACs are advisory bodies to individual school principals, regional centers for education (RCEs), and the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP) on a range of issues related to their local schools and the overall school system. SAC membership can vary but generally consists of the school principal, parents/guardians, teachers, other school staff, students, and community members (1/3 staff, 1/3 community members, 1/3 families). SAC membership should reflect the diversity and voice of the school community and all stakeholders.

- ***Letter of Agreement*** - Reviewed and signed by the administrator and SAC chairperson.
- ***Reviewed by-laws*** - Reviewed, signed, and acknowledged by the administrator and SAC chairperson.
- ***Set Dates for Remaining Meetings*** - see dates below

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 1

High Impact Strategy...

As we launch the new school year, staff will prioritize

- Implementing phonics/phonological-based instruction in the literacy workshop (P-3)

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 1

High Impact Strategy...

- All teachers will schedule a daily block of focused mathematics fluency work (following grade-level timelines in Time to Learn)

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 1

As we launch the new school year, staff will prioritize:

- Building relationships with students and families
- Getting to know students' lived experiences

NOTE:

- HRCE P-3 Literacy Initiative; focus on Phonological and Phonemic Awareness (how sounds look, the creation of sound walls, not word walls, utilizing the UFLI Resource, and engaging in SLP-led professional development and understanding of brain-based research surrounding literacy.
- Fact Fluency Priority; focus within grades 4-6 last year, it has now been extended to all grade levels this year
- A continued focus on Well-being and Equity; continued use of The Little Spot program, reviewed our Student Success Surveys and identified areas of strength and areas in need of growth.

Principal's Report

- **School Opening** - Overall our school opening has gone well. There is immense growth within HRCE. There are more than 58,000 students currently enrolled in the HRCE. In the last five years, enrolment has increased by nearly 8,000 and we've registered 2,000 more new students since last year. As our region's population has expanded (Nova Scotia's population reached one million last year), new families are registering within our system on an ongoing basis. Hillside Park's enrollment is currently at 202 students which is the largest student population the school has ever had.

- **Configuration & Staffing** - Due to the number of students attending Hillside Park, all classrooms are split grade levels with the exception of Grade Primary. There are now 45 educators working with students in various capacities. New educators to Hillside Park include Stacey Allan (Art Specialist), Karen Davis (1/2), Erin Dunn (4/5), Jacqueline Laba (School Counsellor), Genny MacKinnon (EAL), Matthew MacNeil (2/3), Stephanie Inness (Social Work), Lori Kruger (EPA), Samra Pepic (PrePrimary), Jessica Lake-Crossely (SPL - March), Emily Wood (Mat-leave until March)
- **Building Security** - Our first fire drills took place on September 14th. The first lockdown drill of the year will occur tomorrow, Sept 20th and the first hold and secure drill will take place within the week of Sept 25th-29th. A tabletop discussion regarding our schools' relocation drill took place. As a whole school, we will practice the relocation drill in the spring.
- **Celebrating Students** - The Hillside High 5 Awards, and the Fantastic Friday Phone Calls will continue this year. Teachers will also share student successes through their classes' social media platforms, Google Classroom, SeeSaw, Emails, Class Newsletters, etc.
- **Breakfast Baskets** - The breakfast program has started once again; classroom teachers will collect a variety of items such as granola bars, fruits, cheese, and yogurt in baskets and place them in the classrooms for students as needed. The cost of food has increased a lot since last year. Any way to reduce costs or receive donations towards the breakfast program would be fantastic.
- **Technology and Makerspace** - We received a new Chromebook cart and Chromebooks in late August. Our maker space items that were purchased last year should be arriving soon!
- **Hot Lunch Pilot Program** - Healthy Hunger is the program that will be used to support the schools' pilot program for hot lunches this year. The pilot program will run from September to December and there will be three options for students and families (Subway-Tuesday, Pizzatown-Wednesday, and The Lunch Lady-Thursday). Funds from the hot lunch program will go towards funding school initiatives.
- **School Pictures** - Pineapple Photography Studio is taking the school photos this year. The school pictures are separated over two days. Day one took place on Monday, September 18th (2/3, 3/4, 4/5 D, 4/5 C, PP) Day two will be September 21st, (PB, P/1, 1/2 H, 1/2 KD) <https://www.pineapplestudiophotography.com/>
- **Stand Up Against Bullying Day**- On Thursday, Sept. 14th, students and staff participated in Provincial Stand Up Against Bullying Day by wearing pink!
- **Orange Shirt Day**- On Sept. 29th students and staff will wear orange shirts; acknowledging everyone's part as Treaty people. Staff will provide educational lessons surrounding Orange Shirt Day, and Indigenous ways of knowing and being. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be observed on Oct. 2nd, 2023.

- **Events/Opportunities**

- Terry Fox Run - Sept 20th
- Curriculum Night and Ice Cream Social - Sept 21st, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm
- SuperNOVA - Nov 14th In-class workshops
- Unruly Splats - Free Subscription & Professional Learning
- Writers In The Schools (WITS) - No confirmed authors at this time.
- PE Baseball Grant - \$2500.00
- Garden - Harvesting has begun
- Colgate Teacher Kits
- Agriculture
- Green Schools

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 gives us approximately \$7800.00
- SAC members will vote on the use of funds throughout the year.

Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates:

- Oct 17
- Nov 14
- Jan 16
- Feb 13
- Apr 9
- May 14
- June 11

Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) Minutes

PTG Funds - Currently the PTG has \$1100.00 leftover from last year.

- School Events (building bookings)
 - Oct 26 - Halloween Howl
 - Nov 30 - Dr. Daniel Chorney (Anxiety in Children)
 - Jan 25 - TBD
 - Feb 22 - Bingo
 - Apr 25 - Dance and Clothing Swap
 - May 23 - Spring Fling
 - June 20 - Ice Cream Social

New Business -

- **Halloween Howl:**

- Event Date - Oct 26th, 2023
- Entry Fee - \$5.00
- Donation letters have been created to distribute to local businesses. Donations could include treats, decorations, monetary donations, games, and prizes. **Action:** PTG members are asked to let Emily know the names of any businesses where donation letters have been submitted to track the donations and additional funding needs for the event.
- Additional games/activities will be added to the Halloween Howl. More activities with movement/physical activity were suggested.
- It was suggested that this year there be a “Haunted House” where students and their families could walk through the haunted house and experience/ touch different items such as intestines (spaghetti), eyeballs (grapes), etc.
- It was decided that we wouldn’t have a face painter or host a canteen at the event this year.
- Some activity/game suggestions include: pumpkin tic-tac-toe, witches broomstick relay, and pumpkin sucker pull.
- Using the prize wheel from the Spring Fling was also mentioned.
- Tash is willing to create some Halloween-themed designs on the Cricut machine.
- Rose mentioned seeking a popcorn donation from Cineplex
- It was discussed that the PTG would reach out to school staff, families, and community members to see if anyone had Halloween decorations they wished to donate.
- **Action:** Jacquelyn will check with the building manager to see if the side doors in the gym can be used for families to enter and exit the building during the event.
- **Action:** Emily will check with the local library to see if they have any Halloween-themed activities they would like to set up for students/families.
- It was mentioned that Kingswood and Gateway have excellent rollbacks/sales on products and it might be worth watching the stores for deals.
- **Action:** Jacquelyn & Emily (school) will purchase Halloween-themed prizes (Dollarama)

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 pm

Submitted By: Emily Ripley-Davis