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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:** Christina Dorey, Jacquelyn Reid, Emily Ripley-Davis, Cheryl Brann, Stephanie Dube, Tasha Pitcher, Rose MacAuley, Justine Macdonald, Taralee Dubray,

**Regrets:** Ryanne Hamblin, Nicole Evanson, Tammy McMullin, Adienne Kidd

**Call to Order:** 6:02 pm

### School Advisory Committee (SAC) 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 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

**NOTES:**

● As a learning community, we are getting ready to finalize cycle 1 strategies and move into our next cycle prioritizing our next set of responsive strategies. There has been a large focus on phonological awareness in each classroom. Small group instruction is taking place and teachers are focused on the areas that their learners need greater support. Through the fact fluency work, learners are becoming more efficient with their strategies and are becoming more confident in vocalizing and utilizing different math strategies. As a staff, we are working on creating little kits for games and activities (dice, dominoes, counters, etc.). As a school we have purchased a few decodable books, however, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is rolling out SyllaSense decodable texts for schools which will be a fantastic resource. There continues to be a focus on well-being and equity.

**Principal's Report**

**Recent Events:**

- Elderkins School-wide Trip - Students, staff, and parent volunteers truly enjoyed the experience of apple picking. Each student picked and received a bag of apples and all are eager to partake in the event next year.
- Math Circles - Nova Scotia Math Circles is dedicated to enriching the experiences of Nova Scotia students in all areas of mathematics. Their program vision is to foster enthusiasm for math through interactive, creative, and meaningful presentations. Primary to Gr. 1/2 participated in the Pentominoes workshop, Gr. 2/3 and 3/4 participated in the Exploring Mathematics workshop and both 4/5 classes experienced the Tessellations workshop.
- Flu Vaccine Clinic - Our school hosted a flu vaccination clinic for staff and families on Oct 25th. It was hosted in the library from 2:10-6:00 pm and was well attended.
- Halloween Howl - Our second annual Halloween Howl took place on Thursday, Oct 26 and the event was very well attended. This year the PTG added a few more activities/games and created a Haunted House which was a huge success.
- Mi'kmaq History Month - The focus for Mi'kmaq History Month this year was Mi'kmaw sports, traditional games, and pastimes. Each week one of the seven sacred

teachings was presented to students, and teachers infused Mi'kmaq ways of knowing and being into their daily lessons.

- Remembrance Day Ceremony - The school Remembrance Day ceremony took place on Friday, Nov. 10th. All students and staff worked hard to ensure the ceremony was solemn and respectful. Both 4/5 classes presented an Orffestra piece, the choir sang a few tunes and we had honored guests attend from the community.
- Dal SuperNOVA - On Nov. 14th, facilitators engaged learners in an hour workshop within each classroom. Learners focused on STEM-based activities.
- Regional Executive Director of HRCE Visit - Steve Gallagher met with Mrs. Reid and toured the school connecting with staff and students; and gaining first-hand knowledge of the Hillside Park learning experience.

### Events/Opportunities:

- Professional Learning Days - Nov. 23 (AM Only) and Dec. 4
- Family/Teacher Interviews - Nov. 23 (afternoon & evening) There is a new way to sign up this year with the "School Interviews" program, which the school purchased for the year.
- Dr. Chorney Presentation - Dr. Chorney, Psychologist - Presentation on Anxiety in Children (6:00 PM on Nov. 30)
- Holiday Concert - This year's concert theme is "*Winter Wonderland*." The concert will take place on Tues. Dec 12 (Snow Date Wed. Dec 13). There will be two concerts one in the afternoon and another in the evening.
- Spirit Days - Dec 18-20 students and staff we be invited to participate in festive school-wide spirit days. PTG members have been asked to support the last Spirit Day by making hot chocolate for all students.
- The last day of school for 2023 is Dec. 20

### Other Items:

- Building Safety - Students and staff have completed a session on safe bus evacuation, three fire drills, lockdown, hold & secure. Families have been asked to drop students off outside of the building to help minimize traffic in the building and to ensure anyone inside has signed in at the office; maintaining a safe learning environment.
- Technology and Makerspace - We received a new Chromebook cart and Chromebooks in late August. The Makerspace items have begun to arrive!
- Hillside Park Changemakers - Students in Gr. 3/4 and both 4/5 classes have the opportunity to join our school Changemakers program. It is in the beginning stages but so far students can volunteer to help deliver the hot lunch and assist younger students during the lunch hour.
- Breakfast Program - Our school has received two donations for our breakfast program. One from Nova Scotia Power (\$1000) and the other from The Grocery Foundation (\$1150)
- School Healthy Eating Program - This year's budget has increased from last year which will help with the breakfast program food supply substantially.
- Hot Lunch Program - The school hot lunch program takes place on Tuesdays (Subway), Wednesdays (Pizza), and Thursdays (The Lunch Lady). The program is going well, there

has been lots of positive feedback and in the new year, there may be additional items added to the menu selection.

- *HRCE Demographic Update*- This is the first year for a virtual form to be completed by families. There have been many challenges; approximately 50% of our families have completed the form.
- Pre-Service Teachers in 4/5 Cawthra and 4/5 Dunn
- *Roots of Empathy* - This year the program will take place with students in Primary Brann. The program consists of guided observations of an infant's development and emotions.
- *Grant Applications* - An application for the PE Empowerment Grant has been submitted. We are hoping to receive a notice about our application in mid-January. A few classroom teachers have been working on submitting PDAF Grants for their classrooms. The SAC/PTG has been asked to assist with the Indigo Literacy Grant, Walmart Canada Grant, and Costco Grant. Action: Rose has offered to assist in completing the applications.

### **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 have decided to spend the funds on books, flexible seating, and the library/maker space upgrade.

### **Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates:**

- Jan 16
  - Feb 13
  - Apr 9
  - May 14
  - June 11
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## **Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) Minutes**

**PTG Funds** - Currently the PTG account has \$1800

- School Events (building bookings)
  - 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 -**

- ➔ Jan 25 -Discussion of a Family Movie Night. Action: Jacquelyn will research the cost and license needed to host a movie. It was suggested that the PTG purchase a Popcorn machine for the canteen at the events. It was mentioned that the school could have Popcorn Fridays and sell popcorn for \$1.00 to assist in recouping the cost of the popcorn machine. A garage on Sackville Drive may be willing to donate popcorn for the event. The planning for the events will occur via email.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:45 pm

**Submitted By:** Emily Ripley-Davis