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

SAC / PTG Minutes for Tuesday, January 16, 2024

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

Regrets: Tasha Pitcher, Ryanne Hamblin.

Call to Order: 6:03 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 2

High Impact Strategy...

- Teachers will provide intentional opportunities for students to explore the reciprocity between reading and 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 Strategy...

- All teachers will gather ongoing evidence of learning for students in relation to computational fluency.

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

- We will explicitly teach growth mindset and strategies to promote positive self-talk.

NOTE:

- HRCE P-3 Literacy Initiative; focus on Phonological and Phonemic Awareness, utilizing the UFLI Resource, and engaging in 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. Working on creating little kits for games and activities (dice, dominoes, counters, etc.)
- A continued focus on Well-being and Equity
- We are currently in cycle 2

Principal's Report

Recent Events:

- **Holiday Concert :** The school hosted two holiday concerts on Dec 12th, one at 12:30pm and the other at 6:00pm. Both concerts were well attended and the evening concert ticket sales were sold out.
- **Sagewood:** On Dec 15th the school Choir walked to Sagewood Care Facility to sing holiday carols to the residents. A few classes created holiday themed cards which were passed out to the residents after the performance.
- **Spirit Days/Hot Chocolate/Carol Sing:** During the final three days of school prior to the holiday break students and staff participated in spirit days. We have our December Hillside High Five event where staff and students sang carols. A huge Thank you to the PTG volunteers who made and delivered hot chocolate to all students on the last day of classes.
- **COVE:** Whole class presentations in upper elementary, focus on windpower.
- **Mad Science:** Classes in P-2 learnt about light and sound, and classes 3-5 focused chemical reactions. There was also a whole school presentation in the gym.
- **Green Schools:** Green Schools has linked their webinars to grade level outcomes to help students link topics they may hear inside and outside of the classroom with a focus on efficiency.
- **Maritime Dance:** On January 9th, the Maritime Dance institute showcased their performance of trolls to all students. It was an upbeat engaging performance enjoyed by all.
- **Rocky Lake Pottery Lab:** Gr 3/4 Stanton travelled to the Rocky Lake pottery labs through Halifax Regional Arts.
- **Respectful Environment Posters:** HRCE has rolled out new posters highlighting the expectations of a safe and respectful workplace. They will be posted in high traffic areas.
- **Pre-Primary Supervisory Role:** Pre-Primary will now be overseen by school administrators and be more integrated with the daily operations of the school.

- **Student Population:** A few new students have started at Hillside however over the past few months there have been a few students move, therefore our numbers remain fairly consistent.
- **Registration:** February is Registration Month! We are looking for family to spread the word as it is important to have enrollment numbers as it influences job allocations.
- School Safety
- **NSTU PDAF:** Katie Cawthra Gr. 4/5 recently received a grant totaling \$5000.00 to purchase flexible seating for the classroom.
- **Learning Centre:** Received a grant of \$250 to help purchase materials for student programming.
- **Health Promoting Schools Funding:** Funds were received, \$900.00 which will be use to support whole school initiatives.

Upcoming Events/Opportunities:

- **Tattletales Coins for Books Campaign:** This campaign will take place throughout the month of February. There will be competitions between classes to encourage students to bring in coins, a community bottle drive will take place, school-wide spirit days and a mini used book sale will occur during the February PTG BINGO event.
- **Indigo Literacy Grant:** As a learning community we have applied for the Indigo Literacy grant in hopes of receiving new books for our general library, and classrooms. Grant recipients will be officially announced in June.
- **CUA Grant:** We have applied to the CUA grant in hopes of receiving funds to develop a learning commons at Hillside Park. The funds would be used to purchase furniture needed to facilitate lessons, host workshops, etc. Grant recipients will be notified in Februray.
- **Family Movie Night:** The PTG will host a family movie night on Jan 25th.
- **African Heritage Month:** February is African Heritage Month, this year the theme is “Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians.”
- **Buddy Daye Challenge:** A few classes are participating in the Buddy Daye Challenge, entries will be excepted until Feb 22, 2024 with winners being announced shortly after.
- **Stadacona Concert:** Students in grade 3/4 Stanton, 4/5 Cawthra and 4/5 Dunn will travel to Mount Saint Vincent University to observe the Stadacona band perform on Feb 21st.
- **BINGO:** The PTG will host a family BINGO night in the school gym on Feb 22nd.
- **Poetry Club:** Ms. Reid will be starting up a poetry club as students have voiced their interest in having a club that focuses on poetry and creative writing.
- **Changemakers Club:** Ms. Reid will work with students as they reflect on social and environmental challenges and determine how they can change the world around them for the better.

- **Art Projects:** We have met with our Art Specialist, Stacie and have discussed a few locations for student-led murals around the school. A primary location we are looking to enhance through art/painting is the library. There was also a conversation about having student vote and develop a school mascot to build our sense of community. Talks with students about what they wish to see happen will begin after March break.
- **QMack Presentation:** NBA All-Star Entertainer Q-MACK is on a mission to transform your students into "All-Star students" by spelling out what the term "ALL-STAR" really means! Attitude, Leadership, Love, Self-control, Teamwork, Accountable, Respect.
- **Dave Carroll Presentation:** Dave is a singer-songwriter and social media innovator from Halifax who recently wrote a children's book "Tom the Tomatoo Plant." Tom the Tomato Plant is the journey of a smaller-than-average tomato plant named Tom. When all the other plants at the farmers market were claimed, Tom remained alone, dejected and lost until, one day, a little girl persuades her family to give Tom a forever home. The story evolves into an inspiring tale of self-actualization, gratitude, resilience and *living on purpose*. Tom The Tomato Plant is a story of compassion and the transformative ripples that are created with *small acts of caring-on-purpose*.

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. Current funds spent by the SAC include:
 - Syllasense Decodable Books 963.30
 - Leveled Books from Blueberry Hill \$998.24
 - Phonological Letter Tiles \$493.30
 - Tattletales literacy infusion upper elementary 1502.67

Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates:

- Feb 13th
- Apr 9th
- May 14th
- June 11th

Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) Minutes

PTG Funds - Currently the PTG account has \$1615.57.

- **School Events (building bookings):**
 - Jan 25 - Family Movie Night

- Feb 22 - Bingo
- Apr 25 - Dance and Clothing Swap
- May 23 - Spring Fling
- June 20 - Ice Cream Social

New Business -

- **Family Movie Night:** The PTG family movie night will be held on Jan 25th. The permit has been obtained (\$465.75) and the movie families will watch is “Elemental”. Doors will open at 6:00pm and the canteen will be open prior to the show to get some munchies before snuggling in. A concession cart will be available during the movie if students and families run out of snacks. Food items available include: chips, chocolate bars, juice boxes and candies. Families are invited to bring a their own snacks & water; reminding families of our nut free event. Entrance Fee will be \$500.00 per family or a breakfast
- **Author Visit:** It was suggested by Nicole Evanson that the author of “Skating Late,” Camilia Thompson visit with students at Hillside. She also mentioned that Camilia is the founder of “Sunnyside Self Wellness” which is a mental health service that introduces people of all ages and abilities to whole self wellness practices proven to increase peace, positivity, health and happiness. She is avilabile for in class workshops, and it would be a great for all 8 classes and connects well to our school wellness goal.
- **Forest School:** Nicole Evanson also shared information on a Forest School that provides student workshops. Nicole shared the information via email and Jacquelyn will look more into this opportunity for students.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:38 pm

Submitted By: Emily Ripley-Davis