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

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## **SAC / PTG Minutes for Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

**Present:**, Christina Dorey, Jacquelyn Reid, Emily Ripley-Davis, Cheryl Brann, Stephanie Dube, Taralee Dubray, Tammy McMullin, Tasha Pitcher, RYANNE Hamblin

**Regrets:** Rose MacAuley, Justine MacDonald, Adrienne Kidd, Nicole Evanson

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

Review of Last Month's Meeting Minutes

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## **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.

<b>Literacy Goal:</b> 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.
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<b>Cycle 2</b>
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<b>High Impact Strategy...</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers will provide intentional opportunities for students to explore the reciprocity between reading and writing.</li></ul> |
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<b>Mathematics Goal:</b> 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.
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<b>Cycle 2</b>
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<b>High Impact Strategy...</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All teachers will gather ongoing evidence of learning for students in relation to computational fluency.</li></ul> |
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**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. Will be moving into Cycle 3 within the next few weeks, and we will be focusing more on writing across all grade levels.

**Principal's Report**

**Recent Events:**

- **Q-Mack Presentation:** NBA All-Star Entertainer Q-MACK is on a mission to transform 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 Tomato 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*. Tom The Tomato Plant books were purchased for every classroom.
- **Camilla Thompson Author Visit (WITS):** Camilla Thompson is an author, educator and storyteller on a mission to improve mental health education and literacy across Canada. As the director of Sunnyside Self Wellness and author of *Skating Late*, Camilla introduces people of all ages and abilities to writing and wellness practices proven to increase peace, positivity, health and happiness, and shares inspiring stories of hope determination and community involvement. Camilla donated a book for every classroom including Pre-Primary.
- **AJ Smeltzer Band Intro:** Mr. Lynch from AJ Smeltzer Jr. High introduced students in Gr. 5 to

the band program, sharing the instruments students can choose from and answer questions have about the opportunity of participating in the band program.

- **French Second Language Grant Day:** FSL Cultural Connections grant has been awarded to Hillside Park once again. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 students in grades 4 and 5 will participate in a Tintamarre parade throughout the school visiting all classes. They will then participate in Acadian themed cultural experiences through games, books, food station, activities and a maple syrup workshop.
- **Bingo:** The PTG Bingo night went well overall. Attendance was down slightly from last year, approximately 120 people attended the event. The online link used was:  
<https://2020.letsplaybingo.io/>
- **Discovery Centre Trip (4/5 Dunn and Cawthra):** Students in both grade 4/5 classes received funding through the Daytrippers Grant to attend the Discovery Centre. Students enjoyed the field trip!
- **Guitar Club:** Students in grades 3-5 have had the option to participate in guitar club throughout the month of March and will continue until the end of April. Ms. Ripley-Davis, along with HRA specialist James Jackson and community member Colin Oickle will instruct students.
- **Tattletales Coins for Books Campaign:** With the coins raised and the donations from Tattletales we received over \$3400.00 to purchase new books for classrooms and the Library.
- **Scholastic Book Fair:** Another successful book fair, a huge thank you to Ms. Somers and Darlene for organizing the book fair and providing students and families with the opportunity.
- **Decodable Books:** Our schools decodable books from the HRCE rollout have arrived. We were given five sets of decodable texts which will be used in our P-2/3 classes as well as within Resource and Reading Recovery

### Upcoming Events/Opportunities:

- **Professional Learning AM:** Jacquelyn, Kellee MacKenzie and Angela Hausman led the professional development sessions on writing for teachers.
- **Family/Teacher Interviews:** Families had the option of phone or in-person interviews. Again, great feedback on from both teachers and families about the use of the online signup tool.
- **Grade 3 Assessments:** Literacy and Math assessments for grade 3 students will take place in May. Classroom teachers are working with students to prep them for the assessment.
- **Writers in the Schools (WITS):** Jessica Scott Kerrin, Atlantic Canadian author of children's books, best known for fiction, including an eight-book series called *Martin Bridge*; a trilogy called *The Lobster Chronicles*; two mysteries called *The Spotted Dog Last Seen* and *The Missing Dog is Spotted*; an adventure novel, *The Things Owen Write*; a picture book, *The Better Tree Fort*; and, my newest novel about the Space Race called *Clear Skies*. She will share her texts with students on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Stadacona Concert:** Students in grade 2/3 MacNeil, 4/5 Cawthra and 4/5 Dunn will travel to Mount Saint Vincent University to attend a concert for the Stadacona military band which has been rescheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Scottish Country Dancing:** On May 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, community members will show students different movements of Scottish country dancing. Students will learn this social dance form which involving groups of of dancers tracing progressive patterns.
- **School Photographer:** At our next meeting, May 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have 2-3 different photographers share their services and we will vote on a photographer to book for the new school year.
- **Flowers/Garden:** The PTG will purchase flowers for the front Hillside Park sign, and side flower pots. In the back, each class will plant different flowers in the garden beds as part of our memorial to Donna Muggah. Students are welcome to add gnomes to the garden area as well. PTG/SAC will assist in the purchasing of seeds/flowers for this as well.

### New Business:

- **Staffing:** Samra Pepic has taken a job with EIBI, and our SLP is currently out.
- **Honouring Donna Muggah:** A photo of Donna will be placed on our memorial hallway wall, we will also have a memorial bench in the playground area for students to sit and reflect. It is approximately \$150.00-\$175.00 for the photo, and frame. The admin team will connect with operations and our building manager regarding the benches and having one named in Donna's memory.
- **Registration for 2024-25 School Year:** Registration began in February and we continue to get new enrollments.
- **School Playground Multi-Year Project:** A request to add outdoor instruments and a climber has been sent to HRCE and HRM for the 2026 year timeline. This is a 2-3 year plus project and will cost between \$30,000-\$50,000 dollars. Paul Russel (Councilor) has offered to assist in paying for the fundraising efforts for the playground equipment and installation. A sub account will be created within the SAC/PTG financial category to assist in saving the funds to go towards the new playground.
- **Art Specialist:** The art specialist is working with the admin team, students and our Librarian to paint and alter the Library to make it more welcoming and comfortable.

- **SAC Grant:**
  - The SAC Innovation Fund includes about \$250,000 in funding to provide grants of up to \$10,000 to SACs. The fund will encourage new and innovative ideas to support student achievement and well-being and address real problems experienced by students and schools.
  - This funding is meant to provide SACs with the opportunity to test an idea, which if successful, can be expanded to other schools. Applications should be innovative and add value to the educational experience of students at the school.
  - SACs are encouraged to consider novel approaches to address existing issues and identify opportunities to enhance student achievement and well-being.
  - Where possible, ideas should be linked to the school's Student Success Plan and supported by data on student achievement and well-being. Hillside Park will be submitting an application for the purchase of equipment and resources to create a multi-sensory learning environment.
  
- **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:**

- May 14th
  - June 11th
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**Parent-Teacher Group (PTG)**

**Minutes PTG Funds** - Currently the PTG account has \$1615.57

**New Business -**

- **Family Dance (April 25<sup>th</sup>)**: We will be renting lighting from Long & McQuade and will add music to last year's playlist which will be played through the gyms main speakers. The entry fee will be a suggested donation of \$10.00 per family/pay what you can.
- **Spring Fling (May 23<sup>rd</sup>)**: Clothing drive can be moved to the Spring Fling as there is limited time to organize it prior to the school dance. We are starting to collect donations for the raffle baskets and the door prizes. We will have approximately 240 prizes left from last year, but we will purchase a few to provide variety. Glitter Tattoos and Balloon Twisters will be part the Spring Fling this year, Jacquelyn will confirm and book them. No touch a truck this year, but all other games and activities will remain. Emily will connect with Sam about the wood materials donated to create new games. We will place 2-3 games/activities in the Library to help with spacing. Weather permitting, families will come from the exterior PE doors. We will need to order new ballot boxes to the raffle baskets. PTG members will be seeking donations over the next month. For the raffle baskets, each class will have a theme and be asked to bring in items that match their basket theme. It was suggested that one of the raffle baskets be automotive themed.
- **June 20<sup>th</sup>**: Family Ice Cream Social/Picnic

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:20pm

**Submitted By:** Emily Ripley-Davis