

SAC Meeting Minutes

Date: Wed 2024-10-09 6:30 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Patricia Tupper (Acting Principal), Dominique Potter (Grade 5 Teacher), Kate McLeod (Grade $\frac{3}{4}$ Teacher), Ben Deutsch, Shaza Gameel, Tam Adekoya, Melissa Marr

Current Enrollment

- Total: 136 students

Breakdown

- Primary/Grade 1: 20
- Grade $\frac{1}{2}$: 22
- Grade $\frac{2}{3}$: 24
- Grade $\frac{3}{4}$: 25
- Grade 5: 23
- Grade 6: 21

Curriculum Night

- A resounding success with a strong turnout from students and parents.
- Staff shared valuable information on assessment, curriculum, and communication strategies.
- Popsicles were provided for students and guardians, adding a fun touch to the evening.

Emergency Drills

- Conducted two fire drills and one lockdown drill, with HRP on site for guidance.
- Successfully practiced a hold and secure drill.
- On September 27, a bus evacuation drill was held, allowing students to practice boarding, sitting, and exiting the bus in an emergency scenario.

Assessments

- **Grade 6 Assessment:** Scheduled from 9:15 to 10:00 AM, followed by a writing assessment. Results will be forwarded to the Department of Education.
- **Grade 3 Assessment:** Results will be shared with parents and teachers to inform future planning for student achievement.

Professional Development Session (October 11)

- P-2 teachers will focus on the new curriculum, including phonics instruction (UFLI program).
- Teachers in Grades 3, 4, and 5 will concentrate on mathematics, with Ms. Francis leading writing sessions for Grade 6 educators.

New Principal Announcement

- Emily Johnson, transitioning from SJAM, will join as the new principal upon her return from maternity leave in January.

Provincial SAC PD Highlights

- Members discussed their roles and responsibilities, emphasizing the importance of reviewing bylaws for guidance.
- Funding Concerns: Some schools expressed dissatisfaction with funding allocations, highlighting the need for projects that benefit the largest number of students.
- All schools are encouraged to apply for funding for impactful projects, with requests routed through the principal to central office.

New Business

- **Innovation Fund Proposal:**
 - Shaza proposed establishing a recurring program for school trips to the Immigration Museum to enhance students' understanding of immigration and its significance in Canada.
 - Ben suggested expanding this initiative to include visits to other cultural and arts centers, such as Neptune Theatre.
- **Homework Discussion:**
 - Concerns were raised about the lack of assigned homework, with a focus on the need for age-appropriate and meaningful assignments that help students develop strong study habits.
 - Suggestions included establishing homework hub and encouraging dialogue with classroom teachers.
- **Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Update:**
 - The gallery has waived fees for school groups, enhancing accessibility for student visits.
- **Schoolyard Maintenance:**
 - Ben proposed a cleanup of rock debris to ensure a safe, tidy, and enjoyable playground for students.
- **Gaga Pit Construction Proposal:**
 - A suggestion was made to use the \$5000 grant for constructing a Gaga pit on the playground, allowing classes designated playtime.

Next Steps

- Follow up on the proposal for the Immigration Museum program.
 - Address concerns regarding homework support and engage with teachers.
 - Plan for the cleanup of the schoolyard and potential Gaga pit construction.
 - Distribute the SAC agreement to all members after the meeting.
-