

Meeting Minutes SAC

Date: January 29, 2025

Present: Emily, Dom, Ben, Melissa, Tam

Absent: Shaza, Ryan, Fabio

Agenda Change:

- Shaza is absent.
- Added notes on Pier 21 and AGNS from Melissa.

Meeting Commencement: 7:05 PM

Approval of Agenda:

- Ben and Melissa

Approval of Previous Minutes:

- Ben and Melissa
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Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

2. Pier 21 Update:

- Shaza reached out, and unfortunately, we cannot have free entry. However, the school can use specific funds allocated for field trips, which traditionally would have been covered by family fundraising.
- If the trip supports student learning, approval and access are easier.
- **Timeline:**
 - Emily suggests the spring for the trip. It's important to reach out soon due to space limitations. Emily will connect with Pier 21 and discuss with the rest of the staff to finalize timing and classes.
- **Ben:** Asked about the timeline.
- **Emily:** Spring seems likely, but action is needed soon.

3. AGNS Update:

- Main challenge: Finding enough chaperones. Many teachers have expressed interest in attending.
- **Chaperone Ratios:**
 - Grades 3-6: 1:8
 - Grades P-2: 1:5

- **Melissa:** Suggested this could be an opportunity for parents to complete necessary background checks.
 - **Emily:** The school/SAC will reimburse families for their checks. These checks are valid for 3 years once on file.
 - 4. **Gaga Pit Update:**
 - There are space limitations for the Gaga Pit due to regulations about proximity to daycare, portables, etc.
 - The only area that complies with regulations is already a busy part of the playground. The pit itself requires a 20-foot diameter, which is a space issue.
 - **Tam:** Inquired about Ben's earlier suggestion regarding cleaning up the schoolyard.
 - **Ben:** Confirmed the cleanup was proposed for the spring.
 - **Emily:** We have a contracted company handling snow and salt cleanup.
 - 5. **Reading Priority:**
 - P-3 reading priority:
 - 1/3 of students not meeting expectations; 2/3 meeting expectations.
 - Grades 4-6: 60% meeting expectations.
 - **Next Steps:** Regional staff (math, EAL, literacy) will support teachers in these areas. Teachers monitoring progress and updating data. Specialists (EAL, Resource) working with students in small groups and one on one.
 - 6. **School Goals:**
 - **Language Arts:** Focus on reading and reading instruction.
 - **Math:** Focus on math fluency.
 - **Well-being Goal:** To be determined, based on the student success survey from the previous year.
 - 7. **Staff News:**
 - Emily Johnson will be acting principal until June 2025.
 - Chloe Cyr will be the grade 3/4 teacher until June 2025.
 - 8. **Enrollment Update:**
 - Current enrollment: 142.
 - 5 new students have joined this week.
 - Enrollment at the end of last year: 160.
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Grants & Funding:

- **Student Support Grant (SSG):**
 - Funded a few guest speakers and presentations, including unity through drumming.
 - A portion of previous-year funds remains, to be used by the end of this school year.
 - **Playground Equipment:** ~\$1,000 spent; it's been a success, with daily student use.

- **Health Promoting Schools Fund:** \$800, with a submission deadline for plans by mid-February.
 - **Beautification Grant:** Teachers received \$300 for their classrooms. We still have around \$5,000 remaining.
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Fire Safety & Hazards:

- Teachers and the caretaker are working to remain compliant with fire safety protocols.
 - Due to space constraints, it is challenging to comply fully with storage and additional space requirements.
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Questions:

- **Melissa:** Asked how the school's reading priority compares to others in the area and province.
 - **Emily:** The school's performance aligns with provincial standards. The high number of EAL students impacts data, as they are exempt from provincial assessments and report cards. However, they are included in school data.
 - Small group instruction is key for addressing individual needs. Around 60-70% of students benefit from whole group instruction, but some need more focused support.
 - Regarding provincial assessments, about half of the students who took the assessment last year were exempt, which affects the representativeness of the data.
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New Business:

- **Emily:** There are additional funds available beyond the \$5,000 due to carryover from last year.
- **AGNS:** The staff will discuss this and reach out as needed.
- **Tam:** Raised concerns about restrooms not being tidy and bruised fruit.
 - **Emily:** Will pass the message to the caretaker. A new fruit supplier was used recently, and bananas were removed from the last order due to low consumption. The school has been sticking to apples and clementines.
 - **Tam:** Noted that the apples aren't being washed and students are wiping them down themselves.
 - **Emily:** The apples are stored in the fridge and arrive bi-weekly. Washing them before storage is possible, though there are no kitchen facilities available.

- **Tam:** Expressed concern about the health and safety of students eating unwashed fruit and about the amount of food on breakfast trays.
 - **Emily:** We can increase the amount of food on the trays. The challenge lies in the fact that the school doesn't have space for food preparation, and only "snack" options are available.
 - **Tam:** Emphasized the need for restroom cleanliness.
 - **Emily:** Restrooms are cleaned daily. However, Saint Mary's is unique in that we do not have a caretaker for nighttime cleaning in addition to daytime care.
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Next Meetings:

- The next SAC meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of February, April, and May.

Upcoming potential meetings:

- February 26, 2025
- April 30, 2025
- May 28, 2025