

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Time: 7:03 PM

Present: Tam, Emily, Ben, Ryan, Tanya, Shaza

Absent: Melissa

1. Call to Order

- Motion to approve agenda: **Tanya (1st), Ryan (2nd)**
 - Motion to approve previous meeting minutes: **Tanya (1st), Ben (2nd)**
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2. Pier 21 Field Trip

- **Thank you to Shaza** for reaching out to Pier 21.
 - Emily connected with Sahid, who organizes school trips.
 - Planned timeframe: **End of April - Beginning of May**
 - Three separate trips: **P-2, Grades 2-4, Grades 5-6**
 - Cost estimate: **\$2,025 for the whole school** (No fee for teachers and chaperones).
 - The school has funds allocated for field trips. Future trips could be planned earlier to avoid price increases.
 - Suggestion: Establish a standing relationship with Pier 21 and possibly expand to other museums.
 - **Additional Ideas:**
 - **Ben:** Consider a connection with Neptune Theatre next year.
 - **Tam:** Science-based field trips
 - Ideas that came up: Natural History Museum, Discovery Centre, Agriculture NS, Dalhousie student visits
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3. Fresh Fruit Concern Addressed

- Emily explored adding more fresh fruit to the breakfast program.
- Solution for schools with limited prep facilities: **Wash in a basin and air dry.**
- **Admin assistant and Grade 6 students** will help manage this.
- Expansion plan: **Introduce vegetables (carrots, cucumbers, etc.).**
- **Budget available** to support additional items.

- **Community Engagement:**
 - Families could contribute **muffins, yogurt parfaits, and gluten-free granola.**
 - Emily will include a request in the newsletter.
 - **Tam volunteered to provide Jollof rice** (without spices/chilies).
 - Some teachers, especially lower elementary, take an additional afternoon snack break, so extra snacks are welcome.
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4. SAC Funds Review

- **Remaining SAC grant funds: ~\$9**
 - Goal: **Spend as much as possible to avoid potential recall.**
 - **Suggestions for spending:**
 - **Tam:** Graduation gifts for students.
 - **Emily:** Some schools organize Grade 6 end-of-year trips. Will consult with Ms. Francis for ideas.
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5. School Cleaning & Maintenance

- **Caretaker Update:**
 - Permanent caretaker is on leave.
 - **Colleen Duggan** (stand-in caretaker) will be with us until **November 2025.**
 - Cleaning schedule has been revised.
 - **Priority cleaning tasks:**
 - Bathrooms cleaned **during the lunch hour.**
 - Increased focus on maintaining high-traffic areas.
 - **Outdoor Maintenance:**
 - Snow/ice removal: **Caretaker handles pathways**, but the larger area is contracted to **Trim Landscaping.**
 - **Emily will inquire about extra help for heavy snow mornings.**
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6. Staffing Update

- **Colleen Duggan:** Caretaker (until 2025).
- **Bradley Doyle:** Became surplus due to allocation.
- **Current enrollment:** 149 students, with more expected to join.

7. Literacy & Math Provincial Assessments

- **Participants:** 14 students (some exemptions).
 - **Results:**
 - **Math:** 12/14 at Level 3 or above (above HRCE average).
 - **Reading:** 11/14 at Level 3 or above.
 - **Writing:** 8/14 (consistent with HRCE/provincial trends).
 - Staff meeting held to discuss **small group instruction** for students needing support.
 - **Math Coach:** Coming in to assist **Grades 3/4, 5, and 6** teachers in March.
 - **Term 2 report cards:** Sent home **first week of April**.
 - **Progress conferences:** Scheduled for **April 3rd**.
 - **Grade 3 provincial assessment in May** (results released next fall).
 - Planning **school-wide events** to foster belonging.
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8. New Business

- **Phonics Program Request:**
 - Caitlin Singleton proposed using "**Great Leaps**" phonics program.
 - Cost: **\$356.90 (one-year license, upper elementary focus)**.
 - **Approved.**
 - **Pier 21 Funding Request:**
 - **\$2,100 approved.**
 - **Student ID Proposal:**
 - **Shaza:** Suggests issuing IDs for student safety, especially for walkers.
 - **Emily:** Privacy concerns might prevent including student-identifiable information.
 - **Ryan:** Possible alternative—IDs with only **school details (no personal information)**.
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Meeting Adjourned: 7:57
