

Saint Mary's Elementary Student Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes: 18 October 2023

SAC ATTENDANCE:

★ **Parent(s):**

James Martin

Ryan Rodrigues

★ **Staff:**

Andrea Cordoba, Kate MacLeod, and Katrina Longard

★ **Unable to attend:**

Sherry Riggs

1. **WELCOME and APPROVAL OF AGENDA**– KL

- a. Principal's Report
- b. Order of Business- SAC Bylaw Review and Executive Membership
- c. Community Involvement/Family Membership Recruitment Brainstorm

1a. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – KL

Grade 6 Provincial Assessments

- Took place during 4 mornings in October 2023. Grade 6 students across Nova Scotia participated in assessments designed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development of NS. They were assessed in the areas of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Saint Mary's students have successfully completed these assessments and we are hoping they will be scored with results sent to schools and families in the Spring of 2024. More to follow.

Grade 3 Provincial Assessments Spring 2023 Results

- Students who were in Grade 3 last year were also tested by the EECD in May 2023. Their results recently became available to our school and families. Results were shared and they were positive overall for Saint Mary's students. Staff who work or have worked with these students in some capacity have already begun to meet and analyze the results to determine next steps for students who might have struggled in the areas of Reading, Writing and/or Mathematics.

Cross Country

- Took place on Thursday October 11th at Gorsebrook Junior High. The event was organized by John MacDougall, our Physical Education teacher. This was an exciting event in which students participated in a friendly competitive race by grade-level. Our

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students began training and practicing in September on Tuesdays and Thursdays before school in anticipation of the event. Although the original date was canceled due to rain, the event was a success and a positive experience for our school and students in Grades 3-6. We look forward to participating again next year!

Provincial Conference Day

- Friday October 27th, 2023
- This is a Professional Development Day for teachers across the province. Teachers pick a conference to attend which is hosted by various Teacher Associations and they participate in a full-day of professional development. Conferences take place in locations all across Nova Scotia.

Remembrance Day School Assembly

- Our school plans to host a solemn ceremony on Wednesday November 8th, 2023. The ceremony will be organized by our Music teacher, Caitlin Wilson, and staff and students will design wreaths as decoration for the occasion.

1b. ORDER OF BUSINESS

SAC Bylaw and Agreement Review and Executive Membership

- Our latest agreement was reviewed and signed in June 2023
- SAC Membership was discussed. **To meet quorum**, we are in need of:
 - 3 parents/ guardians **(1 more member needed)**
 - 2 teachers (satisfied)
 - 1 support staff **(1 member needed)**
 - 1 community member **(1 member needed)**
 - Principal (satisfied)
- The **SAC Executive** was formed, consisting of:
 - Secretary– Andrea Cordoba (teacher)
 - Chair – Ryan Rodrigues (parent)
 - Principal – Katrina Longard
- Our bylaw about adding items to the next meeting's agenda was reviewed: members are encouraged to let Katrina Longard or Ryan Rodrigues know of agenda items they wish to add in advance.

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1c. BRAINSTORM TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

- #1 possibility: *Community International Food Night*– in the past, Saint Mary's has held a community feast night for students and their families, hosted in our gymnasium. It has been a potluck-style event to bring our school community together, at no charge. SAC is floating around the idea of hosting one this year, organized by SAC, to also bring awareness to our work and the membership needed this year and in the future.
- #2 Possibility: *STEM/ Play Night co-hosted by the Central Library on Queen Street*– James and Andrea will reach out to some contacts about this possibility. We are hoping to host an event toward the end of November/ beginning of December for families and students; treats could be provided by our SAC funds.

★ Action to be taken by members before next meeting:

- James and Andrea to reach out to HPL contacts
- Katrina to reach out to Sherry Riggs about community member role this school year
- A mini-meeting might take place November 8th @ 6:30 pm to discuss a school event for November/ December to address our membership vacancies (to be determined in the next two weeks)

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday November 22nd, 2023 at 6:30 PM over Zoom