

SJAM SAC Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2024 – 6:00-7:00 pm – Google Meets

In attendance: Creighton Barrett, Jamesie Coolican, Ivy Ho, Brenda McNutt, Cheyenne Tolliver, Janessa Williams, Nakeah Young

Regrets: Raquel Fletcher, Jesse LeGallais, Jalana Lewis, Amanda Meisner, Alicia O’Leary, Anita Richards Ben Stone, Claire Swinamer

Approval of November minutes and December agenda.

SJAM 2 – School Life Report – Also see School Life Report attachment.

Literacy, Math & Well Being:

P-6 Literacy: At our last Staff Meeting, our Literacy Specialist led our classroom teachers in a deep dive into the ELA and FLA curriculum including indicators and outcomes. This led the way for teachers to focus on assessing students and planning for Term 2. We also continued our learning on what lessons look like when reading and writing are partnered together in literacy lessons.

Math Focus: Ms. Natalie Deware, our Math Support Teacher was able to discontinue five students from her caseload as they met grade level benchmarks. P-6 continues with consistent implementation of daily fact fluency practice.

Well Being: The school counsellor is out indefinitely. Our counselling services are on hold. Greg Aver, our CYCP has made his schedule more flexible to continue on GSA and connecting with students.

Financial Requests: There are no financial requests this month. SJAM is using a new budget tracking system. Sandy will use the new system when reviewing the SAC budget for meetings.

Current School Site Update:

Pinchin completed air quality testing on the lower floor of the annex where the flood occurred. All tests came back acceptable. Every class has a HEPA filter with a yearly replacement. Gil-Son found air caught in the pipes had to bleed them. They will continue to be on site to address the heating issues.

New School Update:

Kavita Khanna is waiting for an update from the department and is expecting it to be next week.

Bussing Update:

No bussing issues to report.

Staffing Update:

Rebecca Goldberg has returned from Maternity/Paternity leave and now there is a full complement of LC teachers, and it is wonderful! Student Services will now be supporting us with scheduling to ensure all our students on allocation are covered. Our 50% French Language Resource Teacher continues to be out on leave until February 28. Ms. Woodbury continues to sub in that role but will be unavailable after March Break. Lastly, our School Psychologist is returning to us on December 16. Administration will meet with her and determine priority with respect to student service and be ready to go when we return in January.

Food Program at SJAM:

Lunch Program continues to improve. Principal met with service providers to lay out a more efficient way of having lunch organized and delivered and it is working well. Food is coming warmer but still up to two hours before lunch. Administration will continue to send feedback to providers.

School Activities:

Students continue to have some wonderful educational experiences outside of the classrooms. SJAM Choir performed at the Annual Hydrostone Christmas Tree Lighting, Primaries and Grade 1s are visiting Hope for Wildlife, and classes visited the Pottery Lab at St. Stephen's Elementary.

All classes have participated in activities with an Art Specialist from Halifax Regional Arts. This work is to create a floor mosaic which will be placed in the floor at our new school building. In January groups of students will do workshops at Halifax Central Jr. High to piece the mosaic together and then we will have an event where the pieces will be installed in the floor of the new school and current and past families and students can lay a tile in the design.

SAC Membership Development:

There are no new updates on SAC Membership. There are still two vacant slots that could be for community members or parents.

Old Business:

Music Equipment: Jalana found musical instruments including a piano. SJAM has secured two dates at the Rebecca Cohn for events.

HRCE Diversity: HRCE Diversity Team hasn't filled the position yet.

Accessible Transportation: SJAM is looking for funding and will apply for funding.

Roundtable (new business):

Halifax Arts was in the school to take photos for the floor mosaic. Students will start building the floor mosaic and then current and past families will each lay a tile. The mosaic is built into the budget and Halifax Arts is involved because the students are building it. There will also be a mural story wall.

An SJAM parent wrote a letter to the Minister of Education in October and December. They became frustrated because of the lack of response. The letter was forwarded to Cheyanne's supervisor and asked Cheyanne and Katie to follow up with the parent.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 6:00-7:00 pm