**SJAM SAC Meeting Minutes Mar 18 2025**

In Attendance: Ben Stone, Jamesie Coolican, Claire Swinamer, Ivy Ho, Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver, Jalana Lewis

Regrets: Janessa Williams, Brenda McNutt

Approval of February minutes and March agenda.

SJAM2- School Life- March 18, 2025

Literacy, Math & Well Being:

The school literacy team took an in depth look at the current grade 3 English students in preparation for the Provincial Literacy & Math Assessment happening in May (French Immersion students only write the Math Assessment). We looked at past and current supports in place, reading/writing levels, and also administered a common writing assessment to analyze a writing sample for all grade 3s. We also reviewed factors such as adaptations and attendance and worked out a plan to support those students and plan for instruction. HRCE Literacy Consultant delivered group and individual professional development for the grade 3 English classroom teachers to assist them in assessing the writing samples and planning for next steps.

Grade 6 Provincial Assessment Results for Literacy & Math came in and were distributed to families. We looked at the Math results and our Math Support Teacher is collaborating with Administration to analyze and plan for next steps during our next staff meeting. We will also use this session to reflect on the Grade 3 English & French Immersion results.

A new development for Provincial Assessments coming from the EECD is that English versions of the Math Assessment will no longer be made available to students.

Current school site update:

The report from the OHS Occupational Hygienist with the Department of Labor was received, and the two concerns were addressed. Both warnings were already rectified before the report came in. One was to implement a daily log, tracking any pest issues in classrooms and other spaces and the other was to remove cardboard boxes off the floor as it can be used as nesting material. An indoor air quality test was also carried out and the report concludes that the air quality in the building is safe.

New school update:

Administration met with HRCE Maintenance & Capital and the Project Coordinator with Nova Scotia Public Works to order furniture for each room in the building. The order was sent out to tender, and two companies have been chosen to provide classroom and office space furniture. Next up is a meeting with HRCE IT Team and Administration to discuss the technology needs. Administration will be doing a site visit of the new building on March 26th.

Administration also met with HRCE Arts and reviewed the designs for the floor mosaic. With feedback from staff we have chosen the design and have sent the feedback for edits to the artist. Upper Elementary students will begin to work with Halifax Arts in May to begin piecing it together; with planning sessions to invite families and younger students on an evening and a Saturday.

Bussing update:

No issues to report.

Staffing update:

Patricia Woodbury who has been filling the position of 50% French Resource is not able to remain in the position so Becky Thakkar who is currently our Grade Primary FI Classroom Teacher will be replacing her and, in her classroom, will be her current Pre-Service Teacher, Lauren Pederson. The length of this switch will be determined upon the return-to-work plan for the teacher who currently owns the position, Allison McLay, who is still off on IOD (Injury on Duty).

Food Program at SJAM:

The Styrofoam lunch boxes have arrived, which will help the food stay warm.

School Activities:

We had a busy February; classes submitted entries for the DBDLI African Nova Scotian History Challenge 2025, our basketball team ended with an undefeated season, swim program continues until April with our African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker. Little Jammers Glee Club has a couple more Wednesday sessions and GSA continues. Classes have gone on field trips to Pier 21, Discovery Centre and venturing within the community. Finally, we had our whole school assembly recognizing Black Brilliance at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Student performances included poetry, dance, choir, drumming, and our guest speaker was Keonte Beals. It was a wonderful event!

Financial Report: There was $7840.02 carry-over from 2023-2024. So far this year $3,711.24 have been spent. There are $9498.78 remaining. The HRCE instructional fund has been spent for this year. For this reason, SJAM administration may request SAC for some money (e.g., for classroom requests, particularly for the new school). The next expense is likely SJAMboree.

SAC Membership Development: There are 2 spots open for either community members or parents. Ben Stone will be stepping down in June, so we will need a new Chair for September.

HRCE Diversity: Lisa McNeil has been hired, so Ben will send the diversity letter.

Dal is hoping to do a Dal Day this Spring with SJAM again. A hot lunch is provided and activities are facilitated by Dal members.

Jalana Lewis asked to be contacted if SJAM needs any volunteers (e.g., someone to read with students).

Email to HRCE when they take over the work on the new school, highlighting the importance of communication. The email could be sent to Steve Gallagher. Ben Stone will create a draft for the next meeting.

The SAC annual survey is due on March 28th. Ben will send Cheyanne the email he received.

Next Meeting: discuss budget ideas

**Next Meeting Tuesday April 15 from 6-7**