

SJAM SAC Meeting Minutes Oct 15, 2024

In Attendance: Ben Stone, Jamesie Coolican, Nakeah Young, Cheyanne Tolliver, Ivy Ho, Jalana Lewis, Amanda Meisner, Alicia O'Leary, Claire Swinamer, Brenda McNutt, Anita Richards

Regrets: Creighton Barrett, Jesse LeGallais, Raquel Fletcher

Approval of September minutes and October agenda.

-Robyn Traill (music teacher) presented.

"My name is Robyn Traill and I am the new music teacher at SJAM. I would like to acquire some musical equipment (amplifier, electronic piano, bass guitar etc) for the music program before too much time lapses this term and would like SAC's advice. I'm thinking that there might be a few people/families that have some of these items languishing in their closets, and if I write up a request perhaps SAC can disseminate my request to the parent population and see what might be available."

Robyn requested to purchase, borrow or rent for use with the Grades 4, 5, and 6: powered speaker/mixer, microphones, electric bass guitar (3/4 scale), electric piano, kick drum simulator, Hi Hat (Robyn has a Hi Hat that requires repair). Robyn has just bought a speaker/mixer

ACTION: Claire Swinamer will post the request on the Home and School Facebook page. SAC members will ask around (e.g., friends, Dal, Long and McQuade). Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver will ask Armbrae Academy if they have any extra instruments. Nakeah Young reported that there used to be some equipment at the old SJAM that is being stored in Mr. Scott's office

SAC Membership Development:

Alicia O'Leary has joined as a parent and her child is in the English program

Claire Swinamer has joined as a staff member

Mike Cuvellier is leaving the SAC, which leaves 2 openings

There are new rules: %50 of the SAC can be parents. We could fill the remaining two spots with parents or community members.

P-6 Literacy:

On October 11th P-2 & 2/3 Classroom Teachers came together for a full day to review the updated Nova Scotia P-2 Literacy Curriculum for English and French Immersion. Topics included Oral Language (phonological awareness/phonics/and vocabulary) which we are using UFLI to support and ensuring daily active practice of reading and writing for each student. At a staff meeting on October 8th, we outlined Cycle 1 of our SSP (School Success Plan) to determine the tools and action steps needed to meet our Literacy Goal

●Funding Request:

Literacy Supplies: \$54.05 o UFLI Manuals: \$209.98

Read Aloud Books: \$30.45

Dry Erase Sleeves: \$16.09

Total: \$310.57

Math Focus:

On October 11th grades 3-5 Classroom Teachers came together for a full day to review Computational Fluency (Fact Fluency) curricula. Topics included how to effectively implement instruction and assessment practices to develop skills. In collaboration with our Math Support Teacher, Ms. N. Deware a list of resources was compiled to be ordered. At a staff meeting on October 8th, we outlined Cycle 1 of our SSP (School Success Plan) to determine the tools and action steps needed to meet our Math Goal.

● Funding Request:

Spectrum Math Manipulatives: \$1,038.76

Hundreds Counting Charts (3): \$96.57

Total: \$1,135.33

Well Being:

During our staff meeting on October 8th where we reviewed our SSP (School Success Plan) to address students feeling unsafe on the bus and to develop social skills with students including positive play and conflict resolution. Our School Counsellor is collaborating with Classroom Teachers to deliver Tier 1 Whole Class Instruction on these skills.

● Funding Request:

Musical Toys & Playdough: \$61.40

Learning Center Resources: \$280.64

Green Team T-Shirts: \$25.14

Kimochis (SEL Resources): \$150.00

Total: \$517.18

Current school site update:

Gil-Son Construction Ltd. Were in on October 15th to turn the boilers on. Technicians will be onsite tomorrow to ensure we have heat for the school.

New school update:

There has been no new update since the last communication.

Bussing update:

All buses are showing up on time in the morning and the afternoon. Bus #'s 1317 & 1320 continue to show up at 3:30pm but as per their policy it is within the 20min time limit from the dismissal bell. Administration is working with our School Supervisor, Transportation, and School Staff to address the

incidents on bus #'s 1319 and 1301. In the first 20 days of school, we had 92 Bus Conduct Forms from those two buses. There is a bus monitor on every bus.

Staffing update:

Paige Tully has returned and has been reassigned from APL/IPLE to the 2/3 Darwish. She will be there for the year as Mme. Darwish has given notice that she will be extending her Maternity Leave to August 1, 2025. This means our APL/IPLE support will be suspended for the year. Ms. Ferris will return to being the Permanent Floating Substitute filling in when classroom teachers are out. We have also reposted our 100% Learning Centre Teacher to fill that position. We completed filling all our EPA positions but then received a 1.1 increase in EPAs but may have to release 2 x 0.8 to other schools. Student Services is currently reviewing our caseloads. We still have Ms. Woodbury with us filling in for French Resource (50%). Our school is currently still without a School Psychologist as the staff member is on medical leave and there is no one to put in the position. We are closer to having a new CYCP as interviews have concluded and there is a candidate being confirmed.

Food Program at SJAM:

The Nova Scotia Lunch Program will launch on Friday October 18th. The ordering window will be open until Wednesday and then first delivery is scheduled for October 28th. Information has gone home to families on how to sign up.

School Activities:

Students in grades 3-6 participated in the Milk Sports Fair. Running Club for grades 3-6 is underway and we had a group of students participate in a Cross Country Running Event organized by our Phys. Ed teacher, Ms. Lucas. The SJAM Green Team had its first clean up day and beautified our school grounds. We had a great turnout for our Curriculum Night & Ice Cream Social. Our SAC chair and principal attended the Provincial SAC conference and gathered some valuable information to support our school and SAC in working towards our school goals. We held another outdoor assembly to honor Orange Shirt Day. The Grade 6 students in English & French Immersion wrote their Provincial Assessments in Math & Literacy and today students completed a Bus Evacuation Safety Drill with Transportation. Jalana Lewis is working on accessing the Rebecca Cohn (capacity of 1000) for two assemblies in 2025. Jalana is looking into using a Dal lecture hall for other indoor assemblies.

Reviewed SAC Financials:

SAC currently has \$7 575.99 in the account (which is a carry-over from previous years). In November we will receive approximately \$5378.

Literacy, Math & Well Being funding requests (above) were granted.

Round Table

-Water fountains in schools (Ivy) – tabled for the next meeting

-letter advocating for Equity consultants with a focus on gender diverse students to be sent the letter to the EECD. *Otis Day's position hasn't been filled yet.

- SAC PD day.

Innovation grant. Applications for the 2025-26 school year will open January/February 2025. Last year there were 130 applications and 25 were accepted.

Health Promoting Schools – a grant that Ben and Cheyanne will look into.

- Does anyone have information on grants/organizations to help with funding accessible transportation. Currently SJAM needs to pay \$500 to transport one child to a field trip.

Jalana Lewis has found an Emergency location at Dal. As part of the Emergency plan SJAM needs a place to relocate to.

Next Meeting Tuesday November 19 from 6-7