

## **SJAM SAC Meeting Minutes Sept 17, 2024**

**In Attendance:** Ben Stone, Jamesie Coolican, Anita Richards, Katie Mott, Nakeah Young, Cheyanne Tolliver, Ivy Ho, Brenda McNutt, Raquel Fletcher, Jesse LeGallais, Jalana Lewis, Jahtaya Skeete, Amanda Meisner

**Regrets:** Brittany (Caring and Learning Centre), Janessa Williams

Approval of June minutes and September agenda.

**SAC Membership Development:** 1 open spot for a parent – ideally a parent of a child in the English program

1 open spot for a staff member. Ms. J has stepped down.

1 open spot for a Community member

Katie will check in with Mike Cuvellier about whether he is still interested in the SAC.

Cheyanne will put a request in the next newsletter.

**School-life report:** The priority has been establishing routines, expectations and relationships.

**Current school site update:** Crystal Pelly is the new school supervisor. She has been at the school at least 5 times and she's been very interested in knowing about the SJAM challenges. Crystal's next task is to work on ventilation/heating etc. Pest control was in the school today and they are doing some testing.

**New school update:** The SJAM community received an update that the new school is still on schedule to open in September 2025.

Families,

I am writing with an update on the project to replace St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay Elementary.

We have received a new [project status report](#) from the province, including photos showing the progress of the building structure, and exterior walls and masonry. The school is still expected to open and be ready for learning in September 2025.

As a reminder, more information about this project can be found on our [website](#), including School Steering Team minutes, project status reports and correspondence with the school community.

We will continue to provide you with progress updates as they become available.

If you have any questions, please reach out to HRCE Operations Services at [hrceoperations@hrce.ca](mailto:hrceoperations@hrce.ca).

Sincerely,  
Kavita Khanna P.Eng., MBA  
Director, Operations Services  
Halifax Regional Centre for Education

**Bussing update:** There were 2 buses that were consistently an hour late. Some changes have been made to rectify this problem. Please copy Cheyanne on any emails to transportation (see note above).

**Staffing update:** SJAM is still looking for a teacher to cover Heather Darwish's maternity leave. One person has applied. They are scheduled to have an interview this week. In the meantime Patricia Woodbury is covering 50% French Resource and she's in Mme. Darwish's class for the first hour of the day. Zoe (a French monitor) is also in the class full time (as opposed to being in all of the French classes). Julie (French Literacy coach) is testing the Grade 2s and then she will focus her time on Mme. Darwish's class. The school has a permanent sub (Shelby), and she is in the classroom daily. If the applicant isn't hired, then the Grade 2, 3, 4 teachers will take turns teaching the class. In addition, Paige Tully will be returning from leave soon and she could be placed in the class. Mme. Darwish returns from her maternity leave in February.

Learning Centre: SJAM has two Learning Centre teachers (one is brand new). There is an opening for one learning centre position (total of 3). Rebecca will be returning from maternity leave in November. The more vulnerable students are being prioritised. The CYCP staff member (Reese) has left SJAM. One 50% and one 80% EPA positions are open.

Emily Johnson will not be returning to SJAM at the end of her maternity leave, so Katie Mott will be the VP for the full year. Emily Johnson will be starting a position as a Principal.

**School Activities:** SJAM has had its first assembly outdoors. Katie is working with Jalana at Dal on booking times for whole school assemblies.

**Financial Report:** Cheyanne didn't have access to the most updated financial information. Next month there will be some financial requests.

**Round Table:** Google meets seems to be working

Jamesie brought forward the Farm to School Snack program (Nourish).

Join the Farm to School Snack program and bring a burst of local flavor to your school! Each month, students have the opportunity to try fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruit from Nova Scotia farms. Throughout the school year, students will enjoy tasting a variety of fresh produce like juicy ground cherries, crunchy bell peppers, crisp kohlrabi, and colorful rainbow carrots (with classroom information and activities provided). Interested in bringing this delicious experience to your school? Contact Dawn Hare at dawn.hare@nourishns.ca to learn more about how your school can get involved with the Farm to School Snack program.

**Diversity:** Ben emailed Otis Daye to find out who to send the letter to at the Department of Education.

**Innovation Grant** – a grant from the province. It may be good to apply this year, thinking about the new school. We were going to ask the staff for any ideas. The deadline for the application has not been released yet.

**Letter writing:** letter stating the challenges the community has had with the new school build – to be completed at a later date.

**Next Meeting Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 6-7**

-Proposed meetings of the remainder of the 24/25 school year:

October 15

November 19

December 10

January 14

February 11

March 18

April 15

May 13

June 17