

SJAM SAC Meeting Minutes for Dec. 12 2023

In attendance: Ben Stone, Katie Mott, Jamesie Coolican, Ivy Ho, Cheyanne Tolliver, Anita Richards, Brenda McNutt, Creighton Barrett, Nakeah Young (arrived late)

Regrets: Janessa Williams, Nakeah Young, Patricia Woodsbury, Raquel

SJAM2- School Life-

Literacy, math, well being:

On the Professional Learning morning of November 23, staff gathered to complete the Cycle 1 Review of our School Success Plan (SSP). This document outlines our goals in Literacy, Math, and Well Being and acts as our road map as to how we are going to achieve them. We go through a series of exercises to note what we need to see students doing, teachers doing, and we assess the impact of our action strategies. We also review our data and make changes to our strategies going forward.

Current school site update:

We now have two brand new boilers installed and heating issues seem to be working out. There have just been a few rooms that are cooler, and technicians are on it immediately. There was another flood in the basement area and a company was in to unclog an outdoor drain and that has resolved that issue. We have our stencils and paint ready to go but were sidelined by the first major snowfall. We are awaiting the next nice dry weather day to proceed.

New school update: Today we learned that the new school won't be open until September 2025.

Bussing update: Nothing to report.

Staffing update: EPA positions have been reposted. Emily Johnson is now on leave and Patricia Woodbury is in until the break. When we return in the new year Katie Mott will be Acting VP and we will have a replacement in her class. Brenda MacEachern is going to fill Katie's job from Jan to June. Our Core French teacher, Grace Cameron, will be taking a leave from December 20- July 31, 2024 and since her homeschool is St. Stephen's they were responsible for hiring her replacement. Starting with us in the 40% Core French position in the new year will be Beverley Fielding.

Food Program at SJAM: Breakfast program is going well, and we have started our December delivery.

School Activities:

Many classes went on field trips including, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Victoria Park, Millbrook, Santa Flight with Jazz Airlines, and St. Catherine's Pottery Lab to name a few.

We have had two successful fundraisers organized by Home & School Association: SJAM Clothing Swag and the Woozles Sale which SJAM have received books for specific classrooms and the whole school.

Our SJAM Choir sang at the Annual Hydrostone Tree Lighting, we also had our first concert since 2019 held at St. Mark's Church for grades P-2. We look forward to our Spring Concert featuring Grades 3-6 & 2/3 Williams.

Ben and Cheyanne attended a meeting of SAC chairs and Principals regarding the new changes to SAC. There will be grants that SACs can apply for. We discussed the inequity that this grant application process could lead to.

Kavita Khanna from HRCE joined the meeting at 6:45pm.

Questions: What is the mandate and purpose of the school-steering committee going forward, as they don't seem to have a role anymore? The SST role is to provide input into the design of the school. The SST may be consulted again towards the end of construction when decisions regarding "the feel" of the school are being made.

Playground structure (there have been some upgrades – Kavita doesn't know anything about the playground. Cheyanne to contact Dawn to ask HRM to prioritize a new playground structure for the school.

Why are the other development companies able to get steel in? There are lots of buildings being built quickly in the neighbourhood.

Do they foresee any other delays? Kavita doesn't know as she isn't managing the project, although she is comfortable with the current timelines.

Why did they wait so long to revise the timeline when it was obviously unrealistic? There were a lot of long processes, especially given that the cost of materials etc. has increased, as well as the labour shortage.

SAC Membership: Nick Williams from Mulgrave Park doesn't have the capacity to be part of SAC, but when the new ED is hired they will look for someone from Mulgrave Park who would like to represent the Mulgrave Community on the SAC.

We still need 2-3 community members and a non-French immersion parent

Now that Katie Mott will be acting VP, should we have another teacher join?

Next Meeting is Tuesday Jan. 16 at 6pm