

## **SJAM SAC Meeting Minutes Sept. 19, 2023**

In attendance: Ben Stone, Colleen Liiva, Janessa Williams, Amanda Meisner, Cheyanne Tolliver, Jamesie Coolican, Emily Johnson, Anita Richards, Raquel Fletcher, Ivy Ho, Brenda McNutt, Creighton Barrett, Nakeah Young, Nalini Mohan

HRCE has changed the wording for the goals for the SAC. Cheyanne will send Ben the update.

### Principal and Vice-Principal update:

Literacy, math, well being:

P-6 Literacy: As you know we had the P-2 Literacy focus last year and our results were great, students are progressing. This year we want to build on that momentum and the data we have collected to support us in explicit intervention with our students who are not meeting. Colleen Liiva our SLP (Speech Language Pathologist) has joined us to present on what she is doing in collaboration with Resource and Classroom teachers as we need your support with funding for resources. Sharon Paris and Julie Marchand are also with us for the full year as Literacy Support. This year SJAM is focusing on P-6 for literacy.

· Funding Request: \$2034.30 to purchase class sets of alphabet letters, cookie sheets, laminating sheets - This funding request was approved.

Math Focus: In the same way as Literacy, last year HRCE's focus was Computational Fluency with grades 4-6. Again, we want to build on the momentum from our students' progress of last year and put the focus on P-6. We have 100% Math Support Teacher with us all year, Resource Teacher, and a Math Coach. Ms. Natalie Deware, Ms. Beth Graham, Tanya Deware (English Resource teacher), and Allison McClay have been busily gathering and making sure classroom teachers have the resources they need to hit the ground running so a funding request to SAC is proposed to purchase materials related to our math goal.

· Funding Request: \$800 to purchase classroom sets of supplies & resources to support fact fluency; class sets of playing cards, whiteboard markers, whiteboards, laminating sheets, and counting objects for grades P-2. This funding request was approved.

Well Being: During our opening PD Day the staff came together to review our SSP (School Success Plan) for 2023-2024 and we have collectively decided that our goal is: We will improve students' feeling of safety on the playground and when interacting and expressing themselves with others.

Current school site update:

Originally HRCE Capital Management had planned on touching up sections of our playground with repaving however over the summer, excitingly those plans changed to involve a repaving of the whole school yard along with basketball nets being repositioned and court lines put in. HRCE Operations have been out to inspect the work and there is still some paving and touch ups to be done before completion. No timeline yet. We also had natural gas pipes installed to help with our heating issues.

We did have a mould issue early on that started in the Pre-Primary and Excel Rooms, this was due to the high humidity over the summer. Our Building Manager was in and First Onsite Restoration was brought in for the remediation and clean up. They have come back to test surfaces and air quality and have deemed it safe for students and staff. Our daytime Caretaker has also received instructions on how to recognize and remediate any further mould concerns including daily checks of all rooms in the school. Fans and dehumidifiers will be onsite at the school while we are still experiencing high humidity.

Going to have a volunteer day on a Saturday for spray painting stencils for the school yard. Amanda is looking into grants for other equipment (e.g., soccer nets). SJAM needs to find a certified company to install the gaga ball area. The wood also needs to be bought.

Creighton reminded everyone that HRM parks may be considering re-doing the playground in the next fiscal year.

New school update:

There has been no new update since the last communication.

Bussing update:

There are bus monitors on every bus this year at SJAM. This is not typical at other locations however we have voiced a need for them to support our students in being safe as they travel back and forth to school. Monitors' role will be to observe and report any incidents to Administration, they do not physically intervene.

Staffing update:

We are still looking to fill 3 EPA positions and a 30% Relief Teacher position. Postings close this week so we are hopeful we can get right to interviews and hiring.

Food Program at SJAM:

Our Schools Plus Outreach worker is putting together plans on a weekly hot lunch program for students. We are currently looking into Subway & Pizza. This program would be of cost to families.

Opening Weeks:

Despite all the construction, we had a great opening day and students have been settling into their class and routines quite nicely. It has been great having a permanent VP and it's like Emily never left the way she is just in there supporting students and staff and coming up with great ways to make our students' learning environment what it needs to be.

We are looking forward to our work with SAC this year in moving our goals forward and increasing student achievement at SJAM!

Colleen Liiva (S-LP) provided a presentation on the Right to Read. To read more you can look at this website [www.ies.ed.gov](http://www.ies.ed.gov)

Membership: Jadell will be joining us from Highland Park. There is one parent position open and one community member.

Next meeting: October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm