

SJAM SAC Meeting Minutes February 13, 2024

In Attendance: Ben Stone, Jamesie Coolican, Janessa Williams, Ivy Ho, Nakeah Young, Kim Fry, Katie Mott, Brenda McNutt, Amanda Meisner, Anita Richards (joined at the end)

Regrets: Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver

Jamesie reported that she has been in email contact with Stacey Toth regarding shared use of the LMST gym during lunch time starting the next academic year. LMST Excel currently uses the gym after school. Stacey was going to connect with the two principals.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

SJAM2- School Life- February 13, 2024

Literacy, Math, Well Being Goals:

Literacy:

We continue to gather, monitor, and evaluate our student data. SJAM received a grant through HRCE to support students of African NS decent. Ms. Griffith (who is already at the school 2 days a week) will provide small group or individual literacy support to students (total of 25 days).

Math:

The focus remains on planning, teaching, and assessing fact fluency and tracking data for the whole school in that area.

Well Being:

GSA-Rainbow Club planning committee has met to organize implementation for students. Jamesie brought up that she had heard about some substitutes using disrespectful language/ignoring pronoun preferences. Cheyanne and Katie are aware and have had a discussion about having some general statements about language used in the school (e.g., we call groups of kids folks or friends), which will be provided to all guests/teachers. Families had received an email in January regarding racist language/slurs being used. There is a code of conduct for students and a policy of zero tolerance for racist comments/slurs. Katie mentioned that most of these acts seem to be occurring during unsupervised times (e.g., on the bus). Kim Fry noted that HRCE's Equity and diversity team does not include anyone who specializes in gender-based violence. Brenda shared that the Youth Project has a group starting this month to support kids/parents. **ACTION:** SAC to write an advocacy letter to HRCE

Current school site update: Electronic gauges are being installed on all heaters/radiators so that heat can be dispersed more evenly. A company was came in early February to complete regular air quality testing and that report will be available to Administration.

New school update:

The SST met on February 7th to provide feedback for the new workup of the school façade that was presented. A work schedule was also introduced in which HRCE Director of Operation Services, Kavita Khanna stated that further meetings will be held with HRCE and DPW to ensure a completion date of first of July 2025 so that HRCE can have time to put in place what they need to for opening day. The minutes of the meeting will be posted on HRCE website. The deadline for feedback from SST members was February 9th.

Bussing update: A note about bus expectations and a plan for following up on incidences was sent out to families in an effort to address safety concerns.

Staffing update:

Jerrold-Ann Mbarga is filling in for Heather Darwish who began her maternity leave early February. She will be with us until March 2nd when Mallory Goss will take over for the remainder of the year. Heather Thornhill went on leave earlier than expected and Lyndsey Cameron (teacher & SJAM parent) is filling in.

Food Program at SJAM:

Nothing to report.

School Activities:

Spirit Week was a lot of fun. We are now preparing for our African History Month Assembly for students and staff on February 23rd at the McCain building. We also celebrated Lunar New Year and many classes are finishing up their entries into the DBDLI African Nova Scotian History Challenge. The SJAM basketball team is underway and having lots of fun. Our new jerseys will be arriving this week.

Financial Report – postponed to the next meeting.

Membership update: Will still need 1 parent (ideally of a child who is in the English program) and 3 community members. Ben and Katie will contact potential community members.

In discussing the idea of sending a survey to parents regarding needs/priorities at the current school, Cheyanne wanted to have time to consider the implications for SJAM administration prior to going ahead.

Kim Fry asked about whether the new school building will be a net-zero building. Jamesie suggested that this advocacy work is likely best aimed at the provincial departments.

Next Meeting is March 19 at 6pm.