

SJAM SAC Meeting Minutes April 16, 2024

In Attendance: Jamesie Coolican, Anita Richards, Cheyanne Tolliver, Ivy Ho, Raquel Fletcher, Brenda McNutt, Kim Fry, Amanda Meisner

Regrets: Ben Stone, Katie Mott, Nakeah Young

Approval of March minutes and April agenda.

School Life Report - Principal's Update

Literacy, Math, Well Being Goals:

Literacy: Students are continually making gains in literacy, especially with the use of UFLI in the English classes and the neurolinguistic approach in French Immersion. Some of the grades 3-6 French Immersion have also started to incorporate UFLI activities in their English block. On April 16th during our staff meeting teaching staff will be engaged in an interactive session with Nova Scotia ASK (Active Smarter Kids) which will show teachers how to incorporate literacy (and math) learning activities into outdoor learning time. This knowledge is supported by EECD and HRCE and is being incorporated in all grades P-12. For more information visit <https://www.nsaskproject.ca/about>.

Math: During the April 4th professional development day teachers gathered to reflect on how they use their assessments to plan for future lessons to meet students where they are and challenge them. Our Math Support Teacher, Natalie Deware led this PD which also featured a session on cognitive level questioning in math as it relates to assessment. Teachers focused on understanding the three types of math understanding: knowledge, application, and analysis. During this time, we also reviewed SJAM M3 & M6 provincial assessment results to see where our students' strengths and challenges are within the three types.

Well Being:

Schools Plus Outreach Worker and Schools Plus Facilitator have been visiting classrooms to do mindfulness activities. GSA continues and the planning of Tier 1 support for well being mentioned in the last meeting.

Current school site update: Each class now has a working thermometer that can be adjusted up and down. We have soccer nets but need to purchase chain and locks to keep them stored outside. If anyone would like to assist with this, please reach out to Cheyanne. We also had some funds available, so our Phys. Ed teacher ordered some new equipment, Lacrosse, T-Ball, and Jr. & Sr. Playground kits.

New school update:

Administration and our Literacy/Well Being Coach toured LeMarchant Elementary to get a 3D visual of the space and to seek feedback on things to think about as we move along in our new build. In reviewing the spaces with our building supervisor, one of the concerns that arose was that all of the adults are on one floor. The other floors just contain classrooms and classroom teachers. In thinking about setting up safe and inclusive spaces these concerns were sent to HRCE Operations, and we are awaiting a response.

Bussing update: STC has hired some new full time and sub bus monitors that are from the North End community! This has done so much to support a safe ride to and from school. We're so happy they acted on our feedback.

Staffing update:

We are into the season of staffing for the next year. Nothing to report now and as the month progresses, we will be able to see more where we will be with respect to students and teaching staff.

School Activities:

March was a short month! Planning continues for our Spring Concert, DAL/SJAM Day and SJAMBoree.

-Financial Report: Cheyanne was told that some of the funds should have come from the instructional budget first, so SAC will be getting a refund of approximately \$8000.00

-The SAC Innovation Fund: staff asked to wait to apply until we are in the new building

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/SAC#000>

-Regional School Advisory Council (RSAC) Expression of Interest: The province is organizing regional groups to participate at the regional level. SAC members can apply.

-GSA HRCE Diversity – letter – Kim Fry will send one piece of feedback to Ben. Overall, no one had any significant feedback. Kim provided some feedback to increase the number of rainbow flags in the school. Cheyanne is participating in a work group that will put together some tools and PD on creating safe spaces. The GSA is going to be making some buttons for students to wear.

[GSA HRCE DIVERSITY](#)

-Survey guardians to solicit ideas for SJAM2 improvements for 2024/25, to be created by SAC (Kim?) but sent out by H&S.

- could we ask the province to do a community impact study prior to displacing a school? SAC could write a letter requesting this and highlighting the impacts on our community. We could videotape parents and students telling stories about the impacts. Kim will work on drafting some questions for the survey.

-Aggressive/disruptive behaviour on the school yard (Jamesie): Some new equipment came out for phys ed, so some of the older equipment was put outside during recess/lunch. A few students used the equipment very inappropriately and in a violent manner. The staff have thought of more supervision – currently SJAM is short on lunch monitors. Katie Mott is always on the playground over lunch. The code of conduct is being reviewed by the Province. School violence is high in NS schools in general. There seems to be a clash between “home rules” and “school rules” (i.e. sometimes kids are told at home to retaliate).

Ivy suggested that it may be helpful for parents to be notified of general information about the incident, so that rumors are less likely to take flight.

-SAC Membership Development

- We need 1 parent (suggested non-French Immersion)
- We need 2 more community members (Have asks out to Helen and Jahtaya)

[SAC Membership](#)

Next Meeting Tuesday May 14th