



SJAM SAC Agenda

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

5:30-6:30, SJAM Staff Room

Next Meeting:

Welcome & Check In

How are you? What's on your mind as you come to this meeting?

Present: Natalie Hagerty, Stephanie Kenny, Emily Falencki, Johanna Cromwell, Teresa Kelsie, Melanie Haynes, Kevin Collins, Andrea Puzkar, Katie Mott. Guests Heather Breeze, Matt Holland

Regrets: Mike Cuvelier, Bill Perry, Creighton Barret

Approval of the Minutes

Teresa approved. Emily seconded.

Student Success Plan

Literacy Goal: To improve student achievement in reading with a focus on accuracy, fluency and comprehension beyond the text (questioning, making connections, synthesizing, inferring)

Math Goal: To improve student achievement in number sense with a focus on partitioning and representing numbers

School Life

What's happening at SJAM?

- Class Configuration & Staffing
 - There will be an additional FI class next year to make it 9 FI classes and 7 English classes.
 - Ms. King is retiring
- New School Calendar 2019-2020
 - 2 weeks for Christmas
 - SJAMBoree on June 21
 - Adding a capoeira station

- **Bell Schedule**

We have a growing number of students who stay for lunch - about 220 students. When we had a longer lunch, it was because most students went home. When we look at how many people stay for lunch and how long it is, we wondered if we really needed the longer lunch hour. School administration, after talking to staff, brought the possibility of shortening lunch by 10 minutes to the SAC. We talked about next year eating in the classrooms which would be more efficient in eating and getting ready. When we shorten lunch, we are tasked with what we do with the 10 minutes less. We think about the students, what would most benefit them? From 8:50-9:10 we see a significant number of students arrive late. In many cases after O Canada and announcements, and after instruction has started. We believe starting instruction at 9:10 would minimize disruption. Weighing this against dismissing 10 minutes early at the end of the day, we felt this would have a greater impact on student success. Once the SAC supported this possible change, the principal made a proposal to HRCE. When they approved the proposal, the school community was notified in the April newsletter and families were asked for their feedback. It will be in each of the newsletter until school closes in June. It should also be noted that the change in the morning aligns with the start of pre-primary and that Ward 5 offers a free morning drop in for families who require it.

- Natalie has received some feedback and each family's concern is different. There has been positive feedback as well. The guests at the meeting came to share their feedback.
 - They felt 10 minutes could matter so much in the morning. Pushing the day back will help in short term, but people who tend to be late will be late, their patterns will continue.
 - There was concern the process was done backwards, that parents should have been asked first, there should have been more consultation.
- Members of the SAC spoke about lunch being the focal point of the decision, and managing that time and the students who stay. They felt they had put the kids first in the decision.
- We continue gathering feedback and we will take it into consideration. Families in this school are important to us. We still feel that the decision is the right one, and will work with families and their concerns.

Schools are very action orientated, and we make decisions all the time. Could we have done it differently? There is always an opportunity to improve and we welcome the parents that came to share their story. We will continue to work through this change with families. Natalie asked the guests if they knew of people with concerns to ask them to reach out to her.

Round Table

- **Playground**

- The age of the lower playground means it could be eligible to be replaced by HRM.
 - Andrea will check into this
 - Are there community groups that support these efforts?
- There is limited room to play on the upper yard. There is soccer and basketball being played on the same court at the same time.

- We would like to move the stage to the lower yard and repurpose the space to make an open area (maybe a soccer field)
 - We will investigate who is responsible for the staging
- Why don't we have a flag in the front entrance?
 - Natalie will look into how to go about getting one

Check Out

One thing you hope to talk about at the next meeting | An item or discussion that was of particular interest at the meeting | One thing you learned or are thinking about as you leave the meeting | action plan