



SJAM SAC Agenda (see minutes below)

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

5:30-6:30, Virtual Zoom Meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov 9, 2021

Welcome & Check In & Call to Order

- Welcome & Introductions
- How are you? What's on your mind as you come to this meeting?

Approval of the Minutes & Agenda

SJAM 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 - New Business

- SAC 2021-2022
 - Purpose & Procedures
 - Annual report summary
 - Membership & Meetings
 - Budget
- What's happening at SJAM?
 - Covid-19 Health & Safety
 - Relocation to 1589 Walnut St
 - Math, Literacy, Well-Being

Did You Know?

The EECD has a website for SACs,
<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/SAC>

All communications to SAC Chairs and documents to support SACs can be found at www.hrce.ca - look for the purple button on the left hand side of the main page.

Round Table – Your Input

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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

October 12, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY:

1. **Attendance:** Emily Falencki (Chair); Amy Hunt (Principal); Brenda McNutt (Community Member), Creighton Barrett (Parent); Jamesie Coolican (Parent), Anita Richards (Community Member); Ivy Ho (Parent); Nakeah Young (Staff), Katie Mott (Staff), Ashley Mortan (Guest – Parent), Ben Stone (Parent)

2. **Call to order: Chair; Call to order time: 5:30**

3. **Approval of agenda:** Jamesie Coolican

4. **Approval of previous meeting's summary:** N/A

5. **Business arising from the meeting summary:**

a. Members reviewed the SAC agreement and overview documents. Emily shared that she has enjoyed being the SAC Chair but is ready to step down from the position. Members discussed process of recruiting interested school community members and filling chair position. Amy to share recruitment information in November newsletter and members to speak to community members, particularly those who represent the diversity of our social demographic.

b. SAC discussed funding and ideas for SAC spending this year to support school improvement.

6. **School improvement plan update**

a. Provincial assessment results: The SAC reviewed current assessment schedule including the RWM6 and the P-2 Literacy Priority goal.

b. The principal reported on the development of the school website, which is part of our communication goal. The school website will be updated in a specific SAC section going forward to reflect SAC meeting dates, meeting summaries, and other important information as per the SAC template shared by HRCE.

7. **New business**

a. There was a discussion on transportation and busing as part of our relocation experience. SAC is interested in ways transportation can be more equitable to ensure all SJAM students arrive on time for school and are dismissed in a timely manner as well. SAC members to collect data about busing experiences and encourage families to contact the Transportation Team with concerns and questions.

b. The SAC discussed timeline of the replacement school on Russell Street. SST members present shared that demolition should be complete by February 2022, with construction of our new building to start in the Spring of 2022.

8. **Next meeting:** Tuesday, November 9th, 5:30pm

9. **Adjournment:** 6:45pm

SJAM | SAC

Jan. 25th 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Ben Stone, Amy Hunt, Cheyanne Gorman-Toliver, Ashley Morton, Emily Falencki, Alan Farquar, Ivy Ho, Katie Mott, Anita Richards, Nakeah Young, Brenda McNutt, Jamesie Coolican

No minutes from the November 2021 meeting

Today's agenda was approved

Reviewed the role of the SAC, which is to support student success plan goals. Amy talked about maths and literacy goals. The school is working on a well-being goal as well. When thinking about the budget it's important to consider supporting student success plan goals.

SAC membership and guidelines: reviewed the current membership and letter of agreement at the November meeting. **ACTION:** Amy to send Ben the agreement between HRCE and SJAM regarding SAC.

14 people on the SAC list: 7 are guardians, 5 are staff. Currently we don't have any community members. Emily said that in the past being a community member doesn't mean that you aren't a parent. It's often very difficult to get purely community members. In November we had talked about trying to recruit a former SJAM student.

ACTION: look at the representation of our group and work towards having diversity. Everyone try to find a community member who may want to participate in the SAC.

SAC Guidelines: **ACTION:** Emily, Amy, and Ben to meet to discuss requirements.

SAC section of the website is currently blank. In the Spring HRCE directed schools to have a specific section on the website for SAC info. **ACTION:** Amy to post SAC minutes to the specific section on the SJAM website.

Emily has not used the SAC email address.

Position of Secretary of SAC is open. Jamesie Coolican is currently filling the position.

COVID:

When test packages arrived the school sent one package home with each child. They now have enough to send another package home. Each package has 2 tests.

Amy Hunt has been contact-tracing since September 2020. There has been a change in the direction, so she is no longer contact tracing.

Children have been sent home with active symptoms. Since returning on January 17, approximately 100 students are absent everyday (out of 365 students).

Last week staffing was a big challenge; however, it has been better this week. There is a substitute teacher shortage, so the next step is re-assigning non-classroom teachers. As a last resort, classes can be combined. HRCE has deployed one teacher from the central office.

Strong engagement for online learning. School gave out 150 chrome books. The students are doing a really good job of wearing their masks.

ACTION: a note in the next newsletter to tell parents about the process for filling teacher vacancies due to illness.

Alan asked if there is anything the SAC can do to support the mental health of teachers given the stress of returning to in-person learning. Amy is encouraging teachers to take the time they need to take care of themselves and their family. Currently teachers are focused on making up for the lost time.

Cheyenne talked about the decrease in service that kids who need extra support are getting due to those staff needing to work in classrooms. Maybe we could ask for more central office staff to be assigned to SJAM.

Update on new SJAM building: Amy has been told that the demolition is still on schedule to have the building demolished by the end of February. The design is close to being finalised. The debate is the optional 4th floor they are considering building. Amy continues to advocate for the 4th floor.

Amy is going to contact the 3 people who have expressed interest in a discussion about whether or not to change the name of the school. Those people will gather feedback from the community and then submit a report to HRCE. Ashley asked about gathering community feedback in a variety of ways (e.g., a sign board in multiple locations).

SJAM: there is water. There was a brief period of time at the end of last week when the school did not have water. The heat in the building is quite variable. The heat situation is improving and service people are coming in when needed.

Busing: This week dismissal has been on schedule. Jamesie talked about some challenging behaviours on her kids' afternoon bus. There are currently 2 community members being bus monitors and the bus company has put 2 of their own bus monitors in place. An incident report is written up when there are safety concerns. The school is trying to have a proactive approach by having community members act as bus monitors.

Budget: Almost \$1900 left from last year, plus this year's money. The budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 15th at 6pm.

SAC Meeting Feb. 15, 2022

Present:

Amy Hunt, Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver, Ben Stone, Ivy Ho, Brenda MacNutt, Armon Jefferies, Ashley Morton, Nakeah Young, Katie Mott, Creighton Barrett

Regrets: Alan Farquhar

Welcomed Armon Jefferies (former SJAM student and current Grade 12 student at Citadel)

SAC Membership:

Janessa (Director of Needham Preschool/After school) is interested in joining SAC in September.

Brenda MacNutt sent some emails to the director of Veith House and Mulgrave Park Caring and Learning Centre. Tanika agreed to join SAC from the Mulgrave Park Caring and Learning Centre.

ACTION:

Brenda to email Sandra Parker at the North End Community Health Team and will follow up with Veith.

Ivy to contact someone at the North End Business Association.

Cheyenne said she'd contact someone at the YMCA.

Amy will contact Marcus at the North End Library.

ACTION: Amy and Katie to work on uploading recent SAC meeting minutes to the SJAM website.

Update on Student Success Plan:

SJAM is working to update their goals and plans in each area (strategies). Friday's PD day is focused on this. Amy would like to update the SAC at the next meeting, after the Friday PD day.

Provincial/standardised assessments, teacher assessments in each area collected 3 times a year before report cards, as well as data from specialty teachers.

Amy would like to do a SJAM survey to assess wellbeing. In 2019 they used an HRCE survey.

Creighton brought up the effect of COVID on both learning outcomes and wellbeing of students.

Update on New Building and Renaming: As far as Amy knows, everything is on schedule. The building has not been torn down yet. Close to releasing final plans. Concerns were raised about the lack of communication regarding the rebuilding.

ACTION: SAC will write a letter to support the 4th floor in the new SJAM, given the census data. Jamesie, Creighton, and Ashley to draft the letter. Home and School Association may want to be involved.

Renaming Committee: Creighton provided an update - the group has had a few meetings. They've worked on a survey that will be both online and paper versions sent home with kids. Other ideas include comment boxes and some community spots, as well as classroom activities. A report has to go forward at the end of April, with 1-3 name recommendations. Then HRCE makes the final decision.

Next Meeting will be after March Break Tuesday March 22nd, 6:00pm

Agenda items for that meeting:

- Amy - update on school success plan based on Friday Feb 18th PD day and possible financial needs coming out of those discussions.

- Ashley - HRCE is meant to provide PD for the SAC. Maybe we could start thinking/talking about what that could be for the 22/23 school year

SJAM SAC Meeting March 22, 2022

In Attendance: Jamesie Coolican, Cheyanne Tolliver, Ben Stone, Ashley Morton, Mike Cuvelier, Creighton Barrett, Tanika Bundy, Nakeah Young, Alan Farquar, Anita Richards

Regrets: Ivy Ho, Amy Hunt, Armon Jefferies, Emily Falenki, Brenda MacNutt

SAC membership: We have lots of parents, half of the required community members, and most staff (one vacant staff position). No one has heard back from community organizations yet about participating in SAC.

SAC agreement and by-laws: HRCE says that they provide supports for the SAC. Would an info session from HRCE be helpful in Sept/Oct? Mike said that in the past it's been helpful. ACTION: Ben, Amy, and Cheyanne to discuss the possibility of HRCE providing some professional development. There is a lot of information on the SAC website (<https://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/school-administration/school-advisory-councils>)

Success Plan (update from Feb. 18 PD day and on March 8):

- staff gathered in PLC groups (peer learning communities) to present students who are having challenges meeting outcomes. It's a way of brainstorming different ways of supporting students. There is a provincial focus on P-2 students being at grade level reading by the end of grade 2. Teachers get some support from literacy coaches. Students are progressing, but there is a low level of students who are meeting the reading level they should be at. Any students who haven't been in the country for at least 2 years, who have an IPP (with significant literacy needs, or kids who miss a significant amount of time are not included in the data. In the past, SAC has supported paying substitute teachers to allow teachers to do more PLCs. But there aren't enough substitutes, so teachers thought of other ways the SAC can provide support:

1. headphones - to support students who listen to books on chrome books
2. lower-level french chapter books that are appealing to older grade students in French immersion
3. EAL students continue to enrol in the school. The EAL teacher is only present 0.5 FTE (2 days a week). SAC could pay for the EAL teacher to come in at another time for a few days to help teachers have better resources in the classrooms.
4. Resources to support PRIDE initiatives

SAC provided general support for funding these items. SJAM has some money to support these initiatives as well. ACTION: Cheyanne and Amy to find out the costs associated with the above initiatives.

Creighton talked about an article he read from Ontario, which recommends using a Phonics approach instead of Reading Recovery. Nakeah said that some changes are happening in Ontario and that changes may come to NS years. Cheyanne talked about how the English

resource teacher is already using a phonics program. SLP and her students work with students on phonics on Thursdays with P-2 students.

New School: Partially demolished and behind schedule.

SAC and Home and School sent letter in support of a 4th floor.

Mike suggested a short letter/email stating that the demolition is behind schedule, so that something is on record. ACTION: Ben to write a brief letter about demolition being behind schedule. Ask them what should go into the April Newsletter to parents in terms of an updated timeline.

Next meeting:

For discussion: The Ontario Human Rights Commission Report

The article mentioned, by Grant Frost, a local education consultant:
<https://frostededucation.com/2022/03/20/reading-wars-come-home-to-roost/>

Next Meeting: Ben will ask members what date in April works best.

SJAM SAC Meeting April 26th 2022

In attendance: Ben Stone, Amy Hunt, Jamesie Coolican, Ashley Morton, Armon Jefferies, Anita Richards, Ivy Ho, Jon Wright, Colleen Liiva, Katie Mott, Creighton Barrett, Alan Farquar

Emily Falenki has stepped down from the SAC.

Jon Wright (English Resource teacher) and Colleen Liiva (S-LP) presented on school literacy learning. Presented on the Right to Read report and the science of reading. They are seeking money to purchase decoding books, kits, and training.

- one comment was whether the resources can be used for French Immersion students in Grade 3 learning English. In addition, can there be resources/programs in French for immersion students

- the SAC decided to fund the requested items/training

Jamesie Coolican agreed to be vice-chair.

What is happening at SJAM?

- it was nice to have parents in the school for parent-teacher
- hoping to have SJAMBoree on June 24th
- Amy Hunt will be leaving SJAM for another position. Emily Johnson will be leaving for a VP job at another school
- No update re. the new school. See email from Dept of Ed. to Jamesie below.

Action Items

Potential SAC Community members (we still have 2 community spots and on staff to fill):

- Brenda to email Sandra Parker at the North End Community Health Team and will follow up with Veith.
- Ivy to contact someone at the North End Business Association.
- Cheyanne said she'd contact someone at the YMCA.
- Amy will contact Marcus at the North End Library.

Amy and Katie to work on uploading recent SAC meeting minutes to the SJAM website.

Amy, and Cheyanne to contact HRCE re. providing some professional development for SAC in Sept/Oct 2022.

Next meeting:

- Physical Activity Framework

[Link to Introductory Video \(10 minutes\) Video Introducing Physical Activity Framework](#)

[Link to Google Form \(Responses\) Physical Activity Framework - SAC Engagement Feedback](#)

- Membership 22/23 (Two community, One staff)

SAC Meeting Summary May 24, 2022

In attendance: Amy Hunt, Ben Stone, Jamesie Coolican, Ivy Ho, Anita Richards, Nakeah Young, Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver, Armon Jefferies, Brenda McNutt, Creighton Barrett, Ashley Morton, Katie Mott, Alan Farquar

Regrets: Mike Cuvellier

SJAM will be receiving a teacher next year dedicated to using a science-based approach to reading. That teacher will provide training to staff, so the financial ask from the SAC for the literacy projects has been reduced.

Amy is, therefore, asking for up to \$1500 for SJAMBoree from SAC. This event works towards the wellbeing goal. SAC members agreed to support this request.

Membership update: Person from North End Library is not available. Ivy contacted Tracy at the North End Business Association; however, she hasn't heard back yet. Brenda asked someone at North End Community Health and they aren't available. Cheyanne asked Amber Gross at the YMCA, but she's not sure if she'll be around in September. We also need another staff member.

Professional Development for SAC: There is a powerpoint video that was sent out by HRCE, which Ben shared with the group via email. Ashley suggested putting it on the agenda for review in Sept/Oct.

Creighton has appreciated the SAC group being contacted by HRCE to gather their input.

SJAM Term 3 update:

Grade 3 are doing math and literacy standardized assessments.

Staffing: SAC cannot advise on staffing. SAC could send a letter (to Stacy) talking about what the school needs in a leader (as a community, here is what we value, the need for continuity). Currently we don't know who will be the Principal. Amy has been advocating that Cheyanne be given the position of acting Principal. If Cheyanne becomes acting Principal, then likely an SJAM teacher will become acting VP. Ivy Ho, Alan Farquar, and Jamesie Coolican will draft a letter. Alan will email Emily Falenki about getting the previous letter.

New SJAM building: meeting was today

- a childcare centre (North End Community Daycare) will be part of the new building (starting at infancy) - 84 spots
- there will be a fourth floor - building for 420 students - 22 classrooms
- there will be a rooftop play space
- there will be limited parking for staff
- a package will be arriving in the next month or so with details

PAF - Physical Activity Framework:

- hope that the new school will have good outdoor space.
- when SJAM goes back to the North End, perhaps the school could have an arrangement with HRM to use Needham daily.
- Ben will talk to Amy about drafting a letter for Waye, Lindell, HRCE and HRM re SJAM use of outdoor community spaces

Local Voice Survey: only one survey can be submitted, so people can send feedback. Seems to be only accessed through an internal email address. Amy or Cheyanne - contact the creator of the survey to let them know.

Next Meeting: Ben will send out a survey to figure out a date

ACTION ITEMS:

Ben - Doodle

Alan - Contact Emily re previous letters

Alan/Ivy/Jamesie - Draft letter re new SJAM Admin

Amy and Katie uploading SAC meeting minutes to the SJAM website.

All - Submit responses to PAF survey

Amy/Cheyanne - Get permissions changed for Local Voice Survey

All - Review Local Voice Survey, give Ben feedback

Ben - Fill out Local Voice Survey

Ben - Talk to Amy about letter re SJAM's use of HRM community space

Ivy - NEBA

All - One more community member

Staff - One more staff member

SJAM School Advisory Council Summary

June 21, 2022

Attendance: Ashley Morton, Alan Farquhar, Amy Hunt, Armon Jefferies, Katie Mott, Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver, Ben Stone, Anita Richards, Brenda McNutt, Nakeah Young, Ivy Ho

Regrets: Jamesie Coolican, Creighton Barrett, Tanika Bundy (but made a cameo appearance), Johanna Cromwell, Mike Cuvelier

Agenda: Agenda Approved

School Life

Creighton would like to see the SAC minutes on the website. Amy will upload them.

Action: Amy and Katie to reach out to Creighton before June 30 to see if he will take it on.

Beginning of the Thought Exchange is the same as the survey.

Action: If anyone wants to submit thoughts to Ben, he will fill it in the survey and incorporate the comments.

Ben gave an update on the HRCE response to SAC letter regarding hiring of new school Principal. After the letter was sent, Stacey Toth called Ben. They had a good overall discussion. The HRCE Supervisor agreed with the contents of the letter and encouraged more of this kind of communication. They knew what we meant by the letter. They were sympathetic and remembered what had happened previously. The principal job is still Natasha's. They think she will be back in the next academic year, and she would be a good fit. They are trying to figure out what will happen in the interim. Amy will be the point person until August 1.

Ben and Amy had a meeting with Councillor Lindell Smith on June 22. Points of discussion:

- Parking – HRM permits
- Current site – playground needs safer and play structures
- Paying for school volunteer security clearance
- Access to Needham Hill for SJAM for green space.
- Follow-up letter

Action: Invite Councillor Smith to a SAC meeting in the future.

Ben gave an update on SAC membership. New teacher Amanda Meisner, and Amber Grosse of Black Business Initiative, have agreed to join, which leaves one vacancy left. Amber can come into the school for programs.

Dal Day at SJAM. Suggestion of asking lawyer Jalana Lewis to join as a community member as she lives across from the school.

Action: Ask Jalana to join in the fall.

Ivy informed that Tracy Jackson, Executive Director of North End Business Association, has declined to join due to lack of time. Veith House also declined.

Ben asked if any SAC Members would like to resign. No one indicated that they wanted to resign.

Action: If any SAC Members want to resign, please tell Ben.

Amy gave an update on SJAM-boree. She said they needed to purchase more hot dogs. The Africville Museum will be giving tours. They need lots of volunteers. Heather Darwish will be doing a collective art project on site.

Amy gave an update on the new SJAM building. HRCE is working on a package to release to the community before September.

Action: Ben to draft an email to follow up with Peter Wicha. The community is waiting for more information. He will copy MLA Suzy Hansen.

There was a discussion of literacy rates, i.e., starting English late or early Immersion. It was discussed that we needed more information.

Action: Invite specialists from HRCE to discuss in September.

Roundtable

Ashley discussed the school's play structures – one was broken.

? - five older kids monitor the slide. They received 100 signatures on a petition regarding the use of the slide.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Meeting adjourned.