

**School Advisory Council Agenda**  
**Sackville Heights Elementary School**  
**October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

**1. Call to order.**

- Time: 5:30
- In attendance: Kyla d'Eon, Jane Harley, Rachael Webster, Holly Clarke, Lisa Grey, Galina Kheisson, Sherri McKenzie, Renee Parsons and Jennifer Stearns
- Regrets: Corey Murphy, Laura Wheeler

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- Approved by: Jennifer Stearns
- Seconded by: Sherri McKenzie

**3. Approval of Agenda**

- Approved by: Jennifer Stearns
- Seconded by: Lisa Grey

**4. Principal's report**

- School Update:
  - i. We have 508 students.
- Whats Happening:
  - i. Today there was an incident where a manhole cover outside had water gushing out of it. Halifax water attended and determined it was not on their end, so HRCE came and determined it was due to paper towel tubes being put down the toilets. The issue was fixed.
  - ii. A hold and secure drill was completed.
  - iii. We did our second fire drill, and it was very well done, and the children took it very seriously.
  - iv. PTO had veggie box fundraiser
  - v. Bus evacuation drills were completed for all students.
  - vi. We observed Truth and Reconciliation Day, and children wore orange shirts.
  - vii. Picture day was completed over two days.
  - viii. SAC conference happened
  - ix. Terri Fox run walk and wheel event was complete.
  - x. School lunch program is starting to roll out and parents were able to set up their accounts and ordering is ongoing.
  - xi. Our school was chosen as a pilot program to have a teachers Aid in a primary classroom. This was feedback from primary teachers unanimously in last year's feedback. Our school was the only school in HRM where this was selected. The ECE in placed in Ms. Bonds classroom, this was done because of the dynamics of the class but also because Ms. Bond is very organized and strong, and they felt it would be very successful and provide positive feedback for the pilot program.

- Whats Coming Up:
  - i. This Friday is provincial conference day for staff, those that do not pay to attend a conference will have the opportunity to work on development on site. The school has a mix of teachers attending conferences and working at the school.
  - ii. Remembrance Day school service. This year will not be open for families and the public. We're trying to make it a school centred service. We are being more aware of our school population and being mindful of families coming from war torn countries. However, a veteran is coming.
  - iii. Squid is coming to perform for the school
  - iv. Goat works performance is coming to doing drumming with the whole school as well.
- SSP:
  - i. Assessments were done very early in the year, and we learned which interventions would be implemented and required. Early literacy support teacher and two resource teachers are working together in the classroom to provide support and interventions.
  - ii. We received grade three assessments back from last year. This year they graphed it out in categories for the school to see how everyone is doing for the whole group and then individualized students to see the more specific details for intervention. In reading we have 76% of students meeting, write 54% meeting, math 83%. As a province we are aware of the need for more attention towards writing skills. I met with the grade four teachers to go over the results yesterday and will meet with the grade three teachers later this week.

#### **5. School lunch program:**

- We are lucky that we already have a food provider and have hired one more worker, and we have a space for all of the new equipment.
- We still need a new stove due to only having two burners for now which is not enough.
- Some items still need to be moved to accommodate some of the new items.
- As for getting the food to the students we are having lunch monitors come in 20 minutes early to deliver food to the younger students and then the cafeteria staff are delivering to the older kids.
- The school can order 10-15% extra which allows us to cover kids that don't have lunch or drop it, etc.
- We can only see names of students that have set up accounts for, not for families that haven't registered to help them.
- A lot of non-English speaking families are struggling but have received some help.
- It was noted by parents that on the description it does not always say the ingredients and allergens. It was discussed how this is a major concern for younger kids who may not recognize allergens.
- Another concern brought up is that there are no drinks. Rachael said families can still purchase drinks and snacks from the cafeteria on the day of using cash but stated having two websites (the old and new) would be too confusing.

- Breakfast program also looks very different. Before it was the cafeteria workers, but they cannot sustain that with the new program. So, Jen Stearns has taken the lead and the school orders for themselves and offers two items on a cart each day. It's in the lobby now. They are accepting donations of multigrain Cheerios, yogurt tubes, grapes, oranges, apples, crackers and cheese, cereal bars, muffins, cheese strings.

## **6. SAC Conference**

- Rachel and Jane attended the SAC conference.
- Biggest thing discussed was about was funding. The province started an SAC funding initiative which schools can apply for up to \$10,000 each year. 26 schools were funded last year of the over 125 that applied. During the conference they shared suggestions and ideas on what to include in applications to make them successful. One asset was community involvement. Therefore, we should start getting some ideas to have an application for February. It was suggested that we send it out to teachers for their ideas and then have teachers get student feedback and have students provide some suggestions as well, perhaps in creative writing, etc.

## **7. Emergency Procedures**

- Emergency procedures and school safety have been a large focus this year.
- They have been exploring some of the ways in which we could do better. For example, what happens when you have a substitute if there is a fire drill or lock down, do they have keys and class lists, what if a fire drill happens when you're outside.
- The school has done a lot of work to rekey doors and ensure many match or have doubles of every key.
- They have also created "safety bags" with staff lists, important numbers, etc. And by next week we will give a bag to each substitute as they arrive which will also have a key for modules, inside keys, emergency phone call lists, whistles, etc.
- They have also discussed what we would do about a lock down during lunch time.

## **8. Next meeting**

- November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:30pm

## **9. Adjournment**

- 6:21pm