November 26th, 2024

SAC MEETING

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| ***Discussion Items*** | ***Minutes*** |
| *Membership 2023-24*  The Advisory Council shall include the following members:  ▪ the principal, who is a non-voting member  ▪ three parents/guardians  ▪ two teachers  ▪ one member of the school’s support staff  ▪ three community members | *Members:*  *Tina Waterhouse-Campbell- Principal*  *Nick MacDonald- Vice Principal*  *Regrets:*  *Dawn Jenkins- Community member (Chair)*  *Heather Sullivan- teacher*  *Community member:vacant*  *Community member: Naomi Starratt*  *Kehinde Akintola- Parent*  *Parent: Alice Miller*  *Parent: Ashley Dando*  *Folashade Akintola- Parent* |
| *Call to order 6:00 pm* | *6:05 Nick MacDonald* |
| *Approval of the agenda* | *Agenda -*  *Review September Meeting Minutes*  *Principals Report*  *SAC Conference Highlights*  *Cell Phone Policy update*  *Finances*  *SSP*  *Other Business*  *Motion to adjourn* |
| *Approval September Meeting Minutes* | *Approved- Pending* |
| *Principals Report and Student Success Planning* | *School Summary*  *> October Professional development 3-5 teachers worked on Fact Fluency with Mr. MacDonald. Pr-2 teachers worked with Krista MacMillan and Ms. Waterhouse on the new Pr-2 Language Arts curriculum. The 5-6 and the grade 6 teachers went to the regional centre and worked on high leverage instruction in writing.*  *> We had a visit from the Thunderbirds organized by Ms. Halloran, our PE teacher. It was a huge success.*  *>The provincial school lunches have started. We have been trying to solve issues as they arise. We have hired a lunch monitor an extra ½ hour a day to help to distribute the food. We have had some complaints about food quality (not hot, soggy, texture, flavour, etc.). We continue to give feedback to the vendor and healthy schools at the regional centre. Ms. Leights has come up with a system to improve the quality of the food. She prints a list of the students who ordered and has the students bring tickets to get their food. This has helped to keep the food warm longer as we are no longer opening the containers prematurely to sort the meals by name, class, etc. We continue to order 10-15% extra for students who need lunch. Noone is turned away. Some meals have been more popular than others and students often come for second helpings for preferred meals like pasta or tacos.*  *> PALS leadership has started and we are working on a schedule that works around all of the students activities. Students are excited to lead and the younger students have been happy to join.*  *School Spirit and Extra Curricular*  *> Taylor Swift Club- music, etc.*  *> Art Club*  *> Intramurals*  *> There was a local Track meet that was well attended by our school, Beau Marias, OPA and O’Connell (Great fun in the community)*  *> Touch a Truck and Halloween Howl were huge successes* |
|  | *SSP- focus on students of African Canadian and Indigenous descent to improve in all areas, Math, Literacy, and Well Being*  *Literacy-*  *Krista MacMillan, our literacy support teacher, was coaching and co-teaching in the upper elementary to create strong readers and writers workshop practices.*  *Literacy support and Resource teacher collected words their way data in grades 3-6 and the data showed grade three was an area of need. Teachers for a 6 week cycle did explicit teaching 30 minutes daily in the morning of phonics and spelling patterns and then followed up every afternoon with two small groups to solidify areas of need in Reading and Writing.*  ***Math-*** *Focus on strong formative assessment practices in Fact Fluency to group students based on needs. Teachers worked in collaborative groups in staff meetings to determine students who need intervention.*  ***Well Being-*** *We continue to do positive phone calls on Fridays, it is a great way to connect with families. We are also working hard to create culturally safe spaces for all of our students, by diving deep into strengths, challenges and interests.*  *> School wide reward coming up - Domino Guy*  *> Guys and Girls Works- Learning grade 6- focus on Health curriculum on healthy relationships, mental health, boundaries, self-esteem, friendship.*  *>PALS leadership* |
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| **SAC Provincial Conference 2024**  **Highlights** | **Opening prayer, blessings for open hearts and minds…. From Elder Mary Hatfield - National board for Reconciliation. Knowledge holder.**  **Michelle Peters- social worker, indigenous ways of knowing, land based learning and healing. Teaches trauma informed practice. The treaty song was shared.**  **Minister of Education- Key messages were.**   * **Strengthening voices of the community and school leaders.** * **26 projects were chosen for the Innovation Grant. $250 000- 26 projects (testing and trying new ideas)** * **Consistency in education is the goal.** * **Violence in schools- to create solutions the province has looked to the community and SACs.**   **Dr. Sam Hickcox- Physician consultant, Office of addictions and mental health, NS DHW**   * **Finding your voice.**   **Factors affecting well being:**   * **Less time in nature** * **Less time in a room with others** * **Being in nature with other people** * **Many institutions have moved away from religion** * **Elders are isolated**   **Much of healing comes from community**  **Reducing the stigma- normalize talking about mental health. Talking about mental health is only part of the picture.**   * **Mental distress vs mental illness/disorder**   **NS**   * **50% doing well** * **35% mental distress** * **15% have mental health disorders or illness**   **How do we address the suffering in mental health?**  **Emotions- as being a problem. A sign of pathology. (fear, sadness, anger). Emotions are a source of information. We evolved to have diverse emotions. There is a reason we evolved to have a diverse range of emotions.**  **Grief, loss, anger, etc. - Coming together is how we can manage distress. When someone looks sad, people come to us to help us heal.**   * **Mental Illnesses are biopsychosocial disorders**   **Thinking about students and wellbeing is not about avoiding mental stress.**   * **In Zimbabwe grandmothers sit on Friendship benches and provide support. (Importance of community)**     **Substance use in Youth is being combated by:**   * **Supporting students in interpersonal skills** * **Emotional regulation** * **Communication skills**   **Alignment with the vision for SAC**  **> local voices matter**  **> we can all contribute to the wellbeing of students**  **SAC mandate- work in collaboration with principals to work towards student well-being and achievement.**   * **$5000 plus one dollar per student** * **Any funds used by SAC must be reported on.**   **Three funding categories**   * **Activities related to school improvement plan** * **Policy development at the school level** * **Covering SAC operational expenses**   **Healthy Schools Grants**   * **$5000 plus a dollar per students** * **Physical health and mental health**   **Examples of where/how you can spend**   * **Sensory rooms** * **Bike racks** * **Mental health workshops** * **Neptune theater workshops** * **Technology** * **Classroom Resources (high interest texts)** * **Guided reading tables** * **Sub release days for specific PD related to goals** * **Inclusive playground equipment (Well-Being Goal)** * **Comfort closet- supplies to support well being, improvement in attendance and food security** * **Celebration Meal and Family Connections** * **Youth Health Summit** * **Comfortable seating- create small group work spaces** * **Cultural Meeting Room - high school students go to meet** * **School play** * **Equity Day** * **Storybook Island- Pathway where trees are being planted and students have an outdoor space for learning. Students were able share their writing in this space.**   **SAC Innovation Fund**   * **Can be combined with other funding.** * **Winter 2024-25**   **Tips for applying:**   * **Consider novel approaches to address existing issues and identify opportunities to enhance student achievement and well-being.** * **Link to the school’s Student Success plan and support with data on student achievement and well-being.** * **Consider feasibility, especially timelines.** * **Consider implementation and any challenges that may be faced. - consider if any approvals are needed to move the project forward.** * **Note all expenses: materials, labor and training.** * **If the overall project budget exceeds the funds available:**  1. **Ensure that you clearly identify which specific element of the project the Innovation Fund will be supporting.** 2. **Be sure to indicate all other funding sources for this project and if these funds have been secured.**   **https://**[**ednet.ns.ca/ideas**](http://ednet.ns.ca/ideas)**foreducation**   * **Calm corner and flexible seating for all classrooms. - Goal for PLES**   **---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**  **Safe Schools- Gary Adams**  **Thought Exchange in June themes:**   * **Solutions for violence in schools** * **Cell phone usage in schools** * **Need for more inclusive supports in classrooms** * **Improved parent involvement and communication** * **Consistent Implementation of Policy** * **Offering balance for a safe working environment for adults with a safe learning environment for students.**   **Code of conduct**   * **Define “School Violence”** * **Refresh categories of unacceptable behavior= improve clarity and support data tracking** * **More consistent responses to incidents (guiding matrix and table of responses)** * **Consideration of severity, frequency, intentionality, age, and stage of development of the students.** * **Clarity on responses to unacceptable behaviours**  1. **definitions/guiding documents** 2. **Alternate pathways** 3. **Evidence informed approaches**  * **More consideration of the impacts of behaviours on all students** * **Required re-engagement planning for students who have been removed from the school/class (suspension/alternate placement)**   **We looked at a draft of the code of conduct.**  **Nova Scotia- lunch program will be phased in over four years, beginning in the 2024-25 school year.**  **> Every student will have access to nutritious meals every day.**  **> The program will make a difference in the health and well-being for students.**  **The school lunch menu aims to provide nutrient-rich options that students of all ages and backgrounds will enjoy.**   * **Each meal is carefully selected** * **Feedback will be collected from families and schools**   **End of October - Oct. 28th (October 18th to 23rd is the window is open ) with meals being served on the 28th.**  **Doctor Strang- his view on the lunch program. The model creates:**   * **Creates an environment to support learning.** * **Help for school retention** * **Welcoming and caring environment** * **Help to promote wellness in more areas** * **This can lead to long term choices in diet.** * **The power of all schools having an influence on the food system. (Focus on local and healthy food)** * **Helps to reduce food insecurity.** * **As we become more diverse as a province, this has the potential to influence food systems in NS.** * **This program will lead to more school engagement and school retention.** * **Tragic to hear stories of children who come to school hungry and we are excited for the change!** * **Being part of positive change.** * **Focus on the positive!!**   **Minister’s closing:**  **> Thank yous** |
| *Finance*  *SAC Grant: Ideas must be aligned with SSP goals* | *We are waiting for funding to come.*  *> IPADS are outdated*  *Student Support Grant*  *> $600 outdoor gear for students in need*  *> $600 games for engagement during indoor lunches* |
| *Policy Input* | *Cell phone- School Policy has been implemented*   * *If it is seen and off, verbal warning to put away in backpack*   *1st time phone out and used, turned into the office and phone call home*  *2nd time - turned into the office and phone call home for parent to pick up the phone*   * *Exceptions - if a child has Diabetes and uses the phone to check blood sugar levels.*   *We have only had three incidents so far this school year.* |
| *Other* | **N/A** |
| *Adjournment* | *7pm* |
| *Upcoming Meetings* | *Meeting #3- Jan. 28th*  *Meeting #4- Feb 25th*  *Meeting #5- April 29th*  *Meeting #6- June 17th* |