

**SAC Meeting Agenda**

Date: Monday, October 23, 2023, 4:30-5:30 pm

Location: Duc d’Anville Elementary School Library

Attendees: Nancy, John D, Jane, Moira M, Tara C, David K, Nicole M, Nicholas G,

Regrets: Shauna M

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| Discussion Items | Minutes |
| 1. Call to order | 4:36 |
| 1. Approval of Agenda | Nancy/Moira approved the agenda |
| 1. Approval of September 25 meeting minutes | Jane read the minutes, EAL teachers up 50% from last year, Nancy/Moira moved, minutes approved. |
| 1. School improvement plan update (standing item) | Literacy and Math, in Shauna’s absence John gave brief comments but isn’t familiar yet with the goals. Moira explained that improvement is the goal based on previous data. Jane said the tracking document is updated every 6 weeks and HRCE checks in to make sure we are on track. David suggested the SIP could have more focus/analysis by the SAC. John gave some historical context for the SIP process.  Nicholas raised an issue from previous minutes (prior to covid) of a request to post the learning targets but 2 teachers commented that they communicate the targets in a way that engages the students, and are careful not to discourage some with what they may see as unattainable targets. Moira said it isn’t always practical either because her grade has 110 expected math outcomes.  David raised the duties and responsibilities of the SAC and suggested we may be able to take on a more active role in resolving the challenges that the school is facing (ie. playground violence). |
| 1. Principal’s Report | Administration - Shauna is acting Principal until Adam returns. John will remain until further notice, HRCE may decide to move someone else into the role. He is only allowed to work 100 days which will run out at the end of March, which is a critical time of year.  Playground - preliminary progress is being made by HRCE and City staff.  Student Success Plan/Improvement Plan - last year’s report will be sent to SAC members. John spoke to the general feeling/climate of the school being calmer this year, the staff and support workers all playing a role in this including providing discipline when necessary.  Data - 61% of our students are approaching, meeting or exceeding (11% approaching). \_\_\_\_\_ said the data is skewed by the inclusion of Primary collected in October. Moira said when the data collected matters, where it is before the term ends, whether you predict future outcomes or report the current levels makes a real difference. 14% African descent (no differentiation between those with African Nova Scotian roots vs those with more direct African roots. Moira mentioned some of our data is taken from a eurocentric perspective, eg a student from Jamaica may not identify as African), 3% Indigenous. We are able to obtain isolated (desegregated) data for those groups and can compare across the province.  Gr 3 math assessment - 78% for Duc, the province was 76%. 11% not meeting for our school, 10% for the province.  Gr 3 Writing - not meeting 14%, province-wide was 12%. Moira said they used to try to exempt EAL learners, but if we don’t have them in the data then we don’t get the help that we need. John said 3 or 5 kids were exempt from writing. We now have more adaptations to help them write, including a read-aloud option. Approaching 48%, province 44%; 28% meeting, province had 37%; exceeding 3%. province had 6%. David suggested these numbers should be communicated to the community and that it would change the perception in the community. Nicholas said in the past the demographics here might have been used as an excuse but now, in spite of the challenges we have done well. Moira said this still doesn’t capture improvement. David mentioned comparing our school to ParkWest for example is difficult because many of their newcomer students are from education backgrounds where they are actually ahead of our schools.  Gr 6 data from last year is similar. [ask for these stats] Around 3 students were exempt.  Julie Smith accepted the resource position for this school year, so her class has had substitutes, currently looking for a permanent replacement.  Halloween dance on Thursday.  Remembrance Day - school based gathering.  Holiday Concert will be Dec 7. |
| 1. Previous business |  |
| * 1. mural update | no update |
| 1. New Business |  |
| * 1. Review of 2022-23 SAC annual reports | postponed, not yet received by the SAC  required on the website |
| * 1. replacement of main playground, removal of front playground | Put out for tender in June and awarded. The SAC was not updated. Essentially 2 pieces of equipment, 8 swings but 2 are infant. $285k. Jane replied to Katherine Morse and said it was inadequate. There was a plan to pave the front playground for parking, but we have been told that it will not happen. Jane asked if we can reuse the equipment.  The preprimary equipment is for 16 students. The other is for \_\_\_\_ (60?). Our past input was ignored.  Jane expressed concern for what would happen during playtime with an inadequate amount of equipment for students. |
| 1. SAC Funding (update on purchases) |  |
| 1. Public Input | Nicole asked if there are any issues on the playground regarding the current middle east conflict, the teachers reported that they were not hearing things but are aware of the possibility that things could be said. |
| 1. Adjournment | 5:53 |
| Next meeting: November 27, 2023 (future meeting dates: February 12, 2024, April 8, 2024, and May 27, 2024) | |