



Brookside Junior High

2239 Prospect Rd, Hatchet Lake, NS B3T 1R8

Phone: 902-852-2062 Fax: 902-852-5530

Email: bjhs@hrsbc.ca

SAC Minutes for 1 February 2024

In Attendance

Angela Feetham, Amanda Feetham, Jennifer Helm, Laura Slaunwhite, Lisa Mansfield, Evelyn Lamplugh, Hannah Kay, Patricia Laws, Sawyer Prescott, Tracey Vandewater, Tammy Richards, Michelle Smith

Regrets

Marjorie Conrad, Hannah Ubsdell, Cameron DeBaie

Meeting Minutes Approval

Angela moves to approve November 2023 minutes, Jennifer seconds.

Business Arising from previous minutes:

New Business (open)

- School Lunches – still a work in progress. Lunch lady Tuesdays, Subway Wednesdays, Pizza Fridays will continue for the rest of this year.
- Jen completed an SAC survey and collecting/updating healthy local meal offerings in the 2024/2025 school year.
- HRCE looking to revamp school websites. Jen did Survey, will let us know when we hear anything back.

Student Success Plan (SSP) and Goals - Standing agenda item & Principals report:

Literacy Goal - To improve student achievement in writing in the areas of organization and language use.

Math Goal - To improve student achievement in mathematical problem solving with a focus on number sense.

Well-being Goal – Making sure students feel welcome at the school.

SSP

- **Literacy Goal:** Building routines and relationships through conferencing with students, individually.
 - Literacy update: November/December/January – 2 literacy coaches have been available, Crystle George, who will be staying with the school. She has been working with grades 7,8,9 but will focus on grade 7s as a literacy support teacher and she will collaborate with Mrs. Pottie. Real-time monitoring and coaching. Currently there is a focus on Writing. The Language Arts Team has created a folder/portfolios with mini lessons to reinforce the basics.



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- **Mathematics Goal:** We will improve student engagement in math by providing a safe and inclusive classroom environment, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.
 - Math update: Data for grade 8 is being reported every 2 weeks. 15 grade 8s have consistently been below expectations for several reports in a row. The school is increasing focus and considering strategies to help the students to improve. There is high absenteeism in general which creates additional challenges.
- **Well-Being Goal:** We will improve our understanding of students' lives outside of school, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.
 - Well-Being Update – getting the kids moving more – 5-minute breaks. Both physical and emotional benefits.

SAC Spending

- \$6,197.05 available
- Several teacher requests have come in over the last few weeks which were accommodated.
- Possibly using some of the funding to purchase some outdoor classroom equipment – picnic tables, etc.
- There is an opportunity to fix up the Track and Field area behind the school – SAC will consider applying to the PRRA funding (up to \$10k)

SAC Chair Update

- Innovation Fund with a potential for up to \$10k in funding may be available based on application requirements. Jennifer and Lisa to inquire. Currently considering options for the best use of the funding.
- SAC chair has participated in many surveys from the school board.
- Healthy Hunger – launched officially this week. Feedback from kids that the food from “Lunch Lady” was cold, but otherwise, well labeled and organized. Owner was receptive to feedback. Suggested: please find an alternative to metal containers which can't be microwaved. Staggered lunches was a problem because the 10:30 drop off was cold for the 2nd lunch cohort. She will try to consider the two lunch groups and work on solutions for next week.
Subway – successful, questions regarding toppings for Pizza Sub (it came with pepperoni and cheese but no sauce/mayo/otherwise.)
Papa Marios – pizza slices were quite large – kids were thrilled and appreciated having the pizza in a box rather than on a napkin – it was easier to eat.

Boat Cruise – date confirmation? No rain date unless it's exceptional weather. Monday June 24 is the “go-date”. Closing for Grade 9s will be Tuesday June 25 at 9am.

Question from parents re: enforced use of lockers. This is stressful when the locker is far away from last class of the day and/or the school bus. Kids are worried about missing the bus. Classes end at 1:50. Administration monitors the kids in the hallways, and they personally dismiss the bus after confirming that all students are aboard. Be reassured that busses will not leave without any students.



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Student feedback re: new locker requirements: kids are frustrated because all kids are being punished for the behaviours of a few. Kids are now toting many small items (water bottle, books, binder) rather than a single bookbag.

Lockers were the norm pre-covid, and this is not a result of any one driver. There are many reasons why lockers are being enforced, and this is not an unusual ask – confident that students will adjust.

Principal's Report – full details to be provided by Principal

- Lindsay Robinson at HRCE working with kids and staff, assisting with adaptation supports.
- Entrepreneur Fair in December was a huge success and many kids sold out.
- Kindness awards were initiated in December by Mrs. Slaunwhite.
- Grade 9s preparing for grade 10 course selection. Parent meeting has been scheduled for next week.
- New: “Dessert Theatre” – a drama club. They will be presenting a dinner-theatre style show to an audience of 100 on February 28.
- Grade 6 French immersion orientation coming soon.
- Ski Trip for 90 students coming up soon.
- Maritime Center for African Dance coming on Feb 20 (African Heritage Month)
- Genius Hour has started again. Learning about something the kids are personally interested in. Presentations expected to take place before March Break.
- School Skating Trip to the Oval is planned for before March Break

Sports

- Wrestling Team – a successful season with several 3rd and a 4th place wins
- Basketball - Boys team came in 4th in the season, Girl's 2nd - going to the semifinals.
- Cross Country – coached by Rachel Watts/Colin Boutilier – one student even made it to provincials and placed 17th.
- Track and Field – one of last year's coaches reached out to Patty Cuttell about getting the school's Track and Field facilities fixed up and cleaned up. Patty suggested submitting a Grant application through the Prospect Road Recreation Association

Staffing

Admin assistant has been out since November and will not be returning before April. Holly Sears has been helping in her absence.

- Mr. Wegemer is out for the rest of the year. Katie Robinson in covering.
- Mrs. Meehan, guidance counsellor – out for 6-8 weeks. Backfilled by Cindy Wilson
- Mr. Debaie is back teaching grade 6.
- Mrs. Vandewater is now supporting Mrs. Wilson's role.



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- Mrs. Rupe is now in for Vandewater (was in for Mrs. Brothers).

Late January School Lockdown – not much can be communicated. A teacher asked admin for help with a situation in a classroom. Mrs. Slaunwhite responded. Administration decided to call the police and put the school into lockdown to ensure student safety and keep students out of the way. These decisions must be made quickly, and this was done with the information at hand. At the time, a lockdown felt more appropriate than a hold and secure. Reviewing it afterwards, the lockdown may have been unnecessary, a hold and secure may have been more appropriate. The situation has been dealt with and reviewed. Police took longer than ideal to arrive on site. Lisa has requested a review of the 911 call and the response to it (see comments re: high staff turnover lately – the information being communicated may not have indicated the urgency that ideally would have been emphasized).

Other/New Business

N/A

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting: 11-April-2024.

Meeting Dates & Times 2023-2024
Meeting 1 - October 5 - 6:00pm @ BJHS
Meeting 2 - November 2 - 6:00pm @ Virtual
Meeting 3 - January 4 - 6:00pm @ BJHS (cancelled)
Meeting 3 - February 1 - 6:00pm @ Virtual
Meeting 4 - April 11 - 6:00pm @ BJHS
Meeting 5 - May 9 - 6:00pm @ Virtual