

SAJS SAC MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2019 6:00 PM

1. **Call to order:** Mr. Austen

2. **Record of attendance:**

In attendance: Glenn Austen (Principal), Joanne Landry (VP); Lynn Casey (VP), Leah Duggan, Gary Cusack, Daan Verkoeijen, Kim Bain-Long and Anelia Wasserman

Regrets: Marie Kennedy (Guidance), Rochelle MacKenzie

3. **Additions to Agenda:** None

4. **Approval of Agenda**

5. **Approval of Minutes (March 7, 2019)**

6. Business arising from meeting minutes

6.1 Final review and approval of SAC Bylaws

Approved by Gary Cusack

Seconded by Anelia Wasserman

6.2 Final review and approval of SAC Letter of Agreement

Approved by Gary Cusack

Seconded by Anelia Wasserman

7. New members

Leah Duggan will replace Rosie MacDonald as support staff member.

8. New business

8.1 **Principals Report:** School News and New Initiatives at SAJS

8.1.1 **Student Success Planning Updates** (School Improvement Plan) 2018-19

Literacy goal (Joanne Landry): The literacy room is off the ground with designated space and resources for literacy development.

A grade 5 and 6 teacher needs assessment revealed the following:

- Need for targeted small group after school training sessions to focus on specific aspects of literacy development e.g. differentiation/accommodation of various reading levels in one class.
- Classroom libraries need more books for individual reading. SAC money is requested for this. (The school recently received \$15 000 worth of new books for Grade 7 and 8 classes.)
- There will be a Jan Richardson webinar for Gr. 5 + 6 teachers on May 2nd.

Math goal (Lynn Casey): The focus is still on measurement and estimation. \$500 were spent on math murals. Kits were created for grade 7 + 8 and kits will be made for grade 5 + 6 too.

Safe and inclusive Learning Environment Goal:

The PATHS program is integrated into the Grade 5+6 curriculum. The focus is on mental health, problem solving, emotions etc. Two new teachers and the African Nova Scotian success teachers will receive training soon.

SAC money is requested for:

- copies of the PATHS program for grade 5 + 6 classes and posters for 10 classes (3 posters/class) as well as bigger posters for the school.
- 20 T-shirts for Grade 7 + 8 students helping out in the behaviour support program.

8.1.2 Staffing Updates

Mr. Austen will meet with the province on April 26 regarding staffing and recommended configuration for next year.

The ideal would be:

- Behavioural support position up to 100% from the current 50%
- More allocation for school councillors. Allana MacGillivray is currently in a 25% position. It will hopefully be 50% next year.

Allana MacGillivray was moved from her Grade 6 position to student support. Jason King was appointed in her Grade 6 position.

8.1.3 Transition to and from SAJS

Ms. Landry, Ms. Casey and Ms. Kennedy are tasked with student support regarding transition to and from SAJS (Grade 5 students from AEC, Grade 7 students from SACS and HM MacDonald and Grade 8 students going to high school).

Support includes presentations, tours, information flyers and a parent meeting at the high school. Students needing extra support with transition will get extra visits prior to the transfer (in or out).

8.1.4 Playground Fundraising Updates

No update. Currently \$51 000 was raised. A further \$5000 will be donated by RBC.

8.2 SAC Finance Report

8.2.1 \$2000 still available

Possible expenses: Posters for the PATH program, t-shirts for the behavioural support program and books for Gr. 5 + 6 class libraries.

8.3 Guidance Report

Ms. Casey reads Ms. Kennedy's report:

Parents as Career Coaches takes place on May 7th.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters had a year end party with StFX mentors. There are 5 matches in school.

Organizational mentors in Grade 8 continue to service +/- 45 students from Gr. 5-7.

Teach Mental Health Modules are begin shared among a group of SAJS teachers on a monthly basis.

School Counsellors attended a presentation on Consent. The plan is that all Grade 8 students will attend a presentation in partnership with the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre before the end of the year.

Constable MacPherson is doing Kids in the Know (a personal safety program) with Grade 7IMM.AI

Chelsea Goodland and Allana MacGillivray are co-facilitating a program called Free2BeU with three classes at SAJS. It focuses on self esteem and positive personal development.

Gary Cusack suggests that the SAJS activities and support programs should be reported in *The Casket*. Ms. Landry will follow up. Mr. Cusack kindly offered to help with costs involved.

9. Recent and upcoming events

- Education week (April 14-20) – the focus is on Inclusive Education.
- Spring Fling (April 23-26) will include themed days, a dance and sock hop.
- Parents as Career Coaches (May 7)
- Applications for Intensive French (Grade 6) closed on April 11.

10. The **next meeting** is scheduled for May 8 at 6 pm.

11. **Adjournment** at 7:30 pm