

**SAJS SAC
MEETING MINUTES**

Jan 31, 2019 6:00 PM

1. Call to order: Mr. Austen

2. Record of attendance:

In attendance: Glenn Austen (Principal), Marie Kennedy (Guidance), Daan Verkoeijen, Kim Bain-Long, Anelia Wasserman, Rochelle MacKenzie and Gary Cusack

Regrets: Lynn Casey-Howlett (VP), Jerry Delorey (VP), Rosie MacDonald

3. Additions to Agenda: None

4. Approval of Agenda

Approved by Rochelle MacKenzie

Seconded by Kim Bain-Long

5. Minutes of Dec 20 meeting

5.1 The minutes of the Dec 20 meeting are approved by Marie Kennedy and seconded by Daan Verkoeijen. The minutes will be posted on the school website.

6. Business arising from meeting minutes

None

7. New members

Gary Cusack joined the SAC as a community representative. He is a local business owner and has made generous contributions to our school in the past.

Two grade 8 students will also join at the next meeting. They will share a student report then.

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: All grade 5 classes as well as the Grade 5/6 class received their literacy tables. Grade 6 will receive tables next year.

8.1.2 Playground Fundraising Updates

The aim was to sell 3000 raffle tickets (\$5/ticket; \$30/10) for tickets to a Montreal Canadiens/Chicago game. \$1000 was kindly donated by Gary Cusack (Homeward Inns) and Ron MacGillivray to be used at the winner's discretion for travel and accommodation expenses. Tickets are selling well. 4000 extra tickets were printed already. The draw is on February 15.

8.1.3 Staffing Updates

Ms. Joann Landry will be back in her position as deputy principal on February 1st.

Ms Lynn Casey was appointed in Ms. Curry's position until the end of the school year.

Mr. Jerry Delorey is back in the classroom teaching Grade 6 and 7 Math and Science.

With an influx of English Additional Language (EAL) students a grant application allows for a full time teacher to support EAL students in AEC and SAJS. Laura-Lee Maclean was appointed in this position and will be at SAJS 50% of the time starting Feb 4th.

8.1.4 Incident update

Glenn Austen updated the SAC regarding the return of a student involved in an incident threatening self harm. A team approach transition plan is in place and support from the guidance councillors and the school psychologist, Hugh MacDonald, continue to be available for all students needing help to deal with the matter. The privacy of the student in terms of discipline and programming needs to be respected as well.

8.1.5 EAL programming

(addressed in 8.1.3 with Staffing Updates)

8.1.6 International Students

The school was approached by Chuck Boudreau, the local international student coordinator, regarding the placement of 6 or 7 students from China. They will be accompanied by a teacher. If approved, the students will join the school from the end of March break until the end of the school year. Students will be placed in Grade 6 and 7 classes and will be staying with host families. Host families will be receive \$700/month to cover expenses and the school will receive \$200/student/month.

The issue will be discussed further by staff before a decision is made.

8.2 SAC Finance Report

The report will be presented at the next meeting.

8.3 Guidance Report

Ms. Kennedy reports that the Wellness Day is scheduled for May. It will focus on positive mental health. The Saidat group from Ontario will be presenting a program.

A group of volunteer staff members are doing online mental health modules. The third session (on stigma) was completed recently.

School counselling presentations have been completed with Grade 5, 6 and 8. Grade 7 will be addressed soon. The focus is on stress, organizational skills, the difference between bullying and conflict and the availability of support.

A group of Grade 8 students continues to support students with organizational issues.

A group of Grade 5 and 6 students started a fundraising club to raise funds for the playground. They will sell leaves to fill a Tree of Kindness with positive messages.

Teachers were provided with activities for continued discussion on and after Bell Aliant Let's talk day.

8.4 The updated **SAJS SAC Letter of Agreement/Bylaws 2018** is due to Wanda Fougere in March 2019. The current bylaws will be emailed to SAC members before the next meeting where the Agreement/Bylaws will be addressed.

9. Recent and upcoming events

- Grade 5 + 6 students will be skating at the Antigonish Arena and at the Chedabucto Lifestyle Complex in February.
- There is a dance for Grade 7 and 8 students on Feb 7
- On Feb 12 learners will be attending the Pink at the Rink fundraiser.
- On Feb 21 the Grade 8's will go on a ski trip to Wentworth.

10. The **next meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, March 7 at 6 pm.

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