

SAJS SAC MEETING MINUTES

Nov 1st, 2018 6:00 PM

In attendance: Glenn Austen (Principal), Lynn Casey-Howlett (VP), Jerry Delorey (VP), Marie Kennedy (Guidance), Daan Verkoeijen, Kim Bain-Long, and Anelia Wasserman

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of Sept 25 meeting

The minutes of the Sept 25 meeting are approved and will be posted on the school website.

3. SAC Mandate & Overview 2018-19 (Handouts)

Two provincial documents were handed out summarising the process to redefine SAC's:

- Summary of feedback from focus groups on School Advisory Councils
- School Advisory Councils

4. Regional SAC Meeting

A regional meeting for SAC members will be held on Thursday, Nov 20 at SAERC. Members received emails in this regard and are encouraged to attend and reminded to RSVP to confirm numbers.

5. Student Success Planning (School Improvement Plan) 2018-19

Math Goal – *Students will demonstrate an improvement in performance in the outcomes related to metric units and their conversions*

Feedback from Mr. Delorey:

Past assessments indicated measurement as area needing attention across grades 5 – 8. Different areas around the school will be reinforcing the metric system (for example metric measurement on bulletin boards and on the floor)

Language Arts Goal – *SAJS will support the continuing implementation of Balanced Literacy focusing on comprehension.*

Feedback from Ms. Casey-Howlett:

Advanced literacy is class based to address literacy on every student's reading level. This is done in collaboration with the resource teacher. Assessment of students' individual reading levels have been completed.

Resources from around the school were collected and is now available from the reading room and additional reading/literacy kits were added. At this stage most books have been graded according to the "Level It" app.

Safe & Inclusive Learning Environment Goal - *SAJS will provide a safe and welcoming environment for all members of the SAJS school community*

Feedback from Ms. Kennedy:

- Focus groups and students surveys will be conducted to determine whether students feel welcome and to find out what can enhance a sense of belonging.
- The Youth Project will visit Grade 7 in the second week of November to address issues around identity and gender awareness.
- "Parents as career coaches": On December 6 there will be an informative talk for parents about strategies to help kids find career direction. There will be an online sign-up sheet for parents.
- Digital citizenship presentations were done by Constable MacPherson for all grades. It could be done for parents too if there is an interest.
- 22 Grade 8 students were trained as organisational mentors to help students in grade 5, 6 and 7.
- A Wellness Day is planned for February for all grades. Ms. Kennedy applied for a grant to fund a visit from the Toronto based group "Say That". She is also looking at partnerships with other schools in this regard.
- Grade 8 students will be completing interest inventories on "myblueprint.ca".

6. Principals Report: School News & New Initiatives at SAJS

i. 7/8 Pilot Update

The Department of Education paid a visit to the school to discuss the pilot implementation of the integrated curriculum. Currently the project involves integration of all subjects except Math in some grade 7 and 8 classes. All teachers involved in the pilot were trained in the spring and summer. The intent is to expand to a school wide project in future.

Teachers mentioned a need for more technology (like Chrome books) and more opportunity for collaboration with other teachers.

The upgraded form of PowerSchool (PowerSchool Pro) supports reporting on the new curriculum and is already used by all staff.

ii. Playground Fundraising Updates

Students were brainstorming some fundraising ideas and a grade 5 class, for example, is planning to pack groceries at Sobeys for a fundraiser.

There will also be raffle tickets to win tickets for a hockey game in Montreal.

Applications were made to the Royal Bank and Scotiabank will be contacted for additional funding.

The school is considering other ideas as well to raise the estimated amount of \$125 000 needed.

iii. Staffing Updates

Ms. Connolly is back from sick leave and two new TA's joined the staff at the end of October.

7. Recent & Upcoming Events:

- Grade 5/6 Sock-hop & Gr 7/8 Halloween Social – (Monday Oct 29)
- Remembrance Day Service – Nov 6
- Youth Project presentation (Grade 7)
- Remembrance Day holiday – Nov 12
- Administration Day (no classes) – Nov 13
- First Day for STFX Pre-service Teachers – Nov 14
- Regional SAC Meeting – Nov 20 (SAERC)
- Grade 7 Immunizations – Nov 20-22
- Report Cards sent home – Nov 26
- Regular classes (AM) Parent Teacher (PM) – Nov 29 (1:00-3:00 & 6:00 – 8:00).
Classes dismissed at 11:20
- Parents as Career Coaches (SAJS library) Dec 6 (6:00 – 8:00 PM)
- SAJS 7/8 Dance #3 – Dec 13

8. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 20 at 6 pm.

9. Additions

- The school's cross country team did very well at Provincials in Cheticamp. The girls won and the boys came second.
- The girls soccer team won the regionals as well.
- There will be changes to report cards. There will be no remarks for Phys Ed., Music and Core French at the end of the first term. Notes to parents will be posted on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 7 pm.