

**Madeline Symonds Middle School
School Advisory Council Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2023 @ 6:30pm
(Hybrid Meeting)**

Call to Order: 6:37 pm

Attendance: Dave LeBlanc, Dana Mills, Dean Lee, Norma MacIntyre, Vanessa Turner, Michelle O’Conner, Tim Lurette, Grace Campbell, Stephen Hare, Blair Frost

Regrets:

Approval of Agenda (additions): Vanessa Turner/Stephen Hare

Approval of Minutes (November 14, 2022): Vanessa Turner/Angela Thornhill

Standing Agenda Items

1. Student Success Plan Update

- PD Days in early December around the Student Success Plan. Staff was divided into 3 groups to discuss each of the goals. They developed a variety of strategies to meet these goals.
- Grade 8 Math teachers meet on a weekly basis to review results of
- Last week Dave met with his Supervisor and the African Nova Scotian Student Support person from HRCE to review the grade 8 math assessment data.

Old Business

1. Broad Street Consultations

- Recent e-mail communications have thanked the communities for their participation in the consultation process. The most recent letter to families has been circulated to the SAC members. The HRCE is going to continue their conversations until the final decisions are made.
- The thought exchange is still open for the community to review.
- The area around the new school is very big and has a lot of development continuing in the area. This will probably have an impact on how the boundaries and enrollments in the schools will be created.
- It appeared that a number of the issues which were important for parents were not on the priority list for the HRCE.
- The overall concept of the new school sounds like it will be a project-based learning pedagogy in all curriculum areas and grade levels. This will have an impact on the way that staffing occurs for this idea. There will also be an impact on the staffing at all the current schools and what will happen to these teachers.
- It is believed that CPA will remain a 10-12 building. It sounds like all grade 9s will be located at Broad Street. Broad Street will not have a grade 12 class next year.
- Registration occurs in the month of February across HRCE. May is when staffing numbers are finalised at each school.

2. SAC 2022-2023 Executive & Membership

a. Student Rep Vacancies

- We have an opening at the Grade 8 rep position as the current rep has moved.
- We will look at appointing someone for the remainder of the year. The students who initially submitted applications will be given priority.
- Grade 7s have submitted applications for this position. This role will be filled for the next meeting.
- There have been questions from the community on the lack of a grade 6 rep. This year we only have grade 6s from HPCES, and as our current tradition is the representative continues for the remainder of their time at MSMS. Next year we should consider amending this, but this will require

b. Appointment of Chair

- Two people have expressed interest in taking on the role of Chair. Stephen Hare and Blair Frost are the persons who have expressed interest. The only person who can not be the Chair is the Principal.
- Dean Lee has created a Google Form, which will be circulated to the members of the SAC.
- Both candidates were given an opportunity to present who they are and why they would like to serve as Chair.
 - Stephen Hare - has been a teacher at MSMS since 2008. He is interested in gaining more experience in this role and in how it works.
 - Blair Frost - is a parent of two students here at MSMS. She has experience in similar organisations from when she lived in Ontario. She is connected to the issues within the community, especially the Hammonds Plains community and brings this perspective and information to the SAC.
- Members of the SAC are asked to complete their votes by noon tomorrow. Dean will share the information with Dave and Dana to then inform the candidates.

3. SAC Professional Learning Session

- Jody and Dave attended the session. The purpose of the session was to discuss the well being goals for each school. At MSMS, students completed a survey last year to help us develop the goal. The results of this information was also discussed at this session.
- Stephen completed a Masters in Ethics and completed his research on Compassion in Education - there are ways to discuss compassion conceptually. There are a number of ways to express these concepts in simple ways to support learning for all.

New Business

1. Letter from Interim Deputy Minister (ECCD)

- Re: Input into HRCE Regional Director hire, deadline February 3, 2023.
- As circulated to the SAC members
- Key statement: We are requesting your input into what you believe are the key knowledge, skills and attitudes the next leader should have and what you believe are the key priorities for HRCE schools for the next five years.
- If there was an opportunity to open the dialogue with all the members of the SAC to allow each member the time to think about these questions and then share this to the

Chair. It was felt that this was an important task for the SAC members to take on. Once we have our new Chair, we will have something sent out to open this dialogue.

Special Reports/Presentations

1. Administration Report

- We have had some changes in enrollment over the last while. We are now at 841 students as of today.
- The week before break students participated in a Spirit Week with a different theme for clothing each day. Each grade had an opportunity to participate in BINGO. Each classroom also created a wreath on their doors for a competition
- This week all phys ed classes are focusing on fitness activities and focusing on personal challenges. Each class will have a 20 minute walk/run to start the class and then continue through in a number of circuits. Staff has been invited to participate in these classes as they are available.
- High School course selection has begun. Last week there was a course selection meeting at CPA. It is interesting as we do not have all the information on which students are going where. At this time, course selection will be completed by the end of March.
- Grade 8 and 9 end of year celebration and/or trip. Grade 9 parents have typically organised an end of year event, it has also typically occurred at Hatfield Farms. The planning of this has begun in the community, through Facebook for both grades.
- Typically there is an end of year assembly with grade 9 awards. This may change.
- We have decided that it is too late in the year to do a Montreal trip, due to time constraints in fundraising. Perhaps we will have a Maritimes or Nova Scotia trip.
- Athletics continuing - Basketball is just beginning. Wrestling is very popular at MSMS, we are one of the few schools in the area which have this.
- There are a number of clubs available as well - yearbook, art club, newspaper, and it was just announced there would be a School of Rock club.

2. Student Report

- No students were present to report.

3. School Budget Update

- A lot of conversation continues to be around Chromebooks. The school has purchased 30 more. 30 chromebooks arrived from HRCE, but these were to replace 30 which were damaged. It would be nice to get to the position where we could be 1:1 and each student could be assigned a chromebook at the beginning of the year.
- SchoolsPlus is also looking for some funds for their Wellness Initiative.
- Breakfast program is looking at purchasing a new toaster to support their breakfast making.
 - Blair has been able to source a toaster from an industrial kitchen. It just needs to be cleaned.
- The school was also offered an additional grant of money to support food programs in the school. The school has put in a proposal requesting a large sum of money, which needs to be spent by March 31st. We have not heard yet if we will be receiving any of this money.
- Can the grant be used for summer programs? Especially food insecurity issues for those

kids who regularly access the school based programs for food. The Hammonds Plains Fire Department is a supporter of families; perhaps they could be a partner for such a program.

- Currently there is approximately \$9800 in the SAC account. Funds can be carried over year to year, though this is not recommended.
- Can we release the funds to the specific supporters or organisations which support activities for them to use as they need.

Next meeting: Monday, February 27, 2023 @ 6:30PM

Adjournment: Norma MacIntyre 7:48 pm

Meeting Dates 2022/2023

Monday April 17, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Monday May 15, 2023 @ 6:30pm

June 2023 (Date to be decided – meal together.)