

Ash Lee Jefferson (ALJ) School Advisory Council (SAC)

Minutes

2020/21 - Meeting 3 – February 1, 2021 at 6:30pm

Attendees:

Chastity McKinnon	SAC Chair
Lynn Mills	Principal
Jennifer Cholock-Whitty	Vice-Principal
Holly O’Hearn	HRCE Staff
Angela Ewing	HRCE Staff
Danielle Milbrath	Community Member
Shelly Hume	Parent
Colin Murchison	Parent
Jamie Davis	Parent observer

Regrets:

Jennifer McMillan (HRCE Staff), David Tucker (observer)

MINUTES

Meeting start 6:37pm

Opening Remarks by Chastity, Lynn and Jennifer

Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes, Shelly and Colin approved.

Business Arising from Previous Meeting Summary - None

Principal’s Report: (Lynn’s notes)

SAC Principal Report - February 01 Meeting

December: Christmas Spirit Week

Our students Enjoyed:

- ✓ Spirit Days
- ✓ Music compilation created by Music teacher with classrooms, specialists, and Admin.
- ✓ Santa showed up for bus duty on the last day
- PTO and Ash Lee Jefferson bought ornaments for each family. We knew that we couldn’t sell for profit and we didn’t want the tradition to be interrupted. We also wanted to do something special for our community.

Professional Development Week: January 4-8:

- Started with a message from Deputy minister
- **Administration and teachers were responsible for handing in a detailed plan for learning for the week.**
- The Program team developed a comprehensive schedule for online support and synchronous professional development during the week of January 4 to 8 for all staff. Sessions focused on tools and techniques for supporting blended and/or remote learning
- All learning centered on: Black Lives Matter in Education, Student Well Being and Social Emotional Learning, Inclusive Education Policy, Technology for on line learning.
- As we worked on the key areas we always focused on the following questions:
 - ✓ How are our children doing?
 - ✓ How do we know?
 - ✓ What do we need to learn on behalf of our students?
- We also asked: *(Collaboration with grade level teams for planning, Admin/ Resource/ Learning Centre teams for supporting learners)*
 - ✓ Who do I need to connect with to better support my students?
 - ✓ What do we need to learn together on behalf of our students?
- **Inclusive Education Policy sessions:**
 - ✓ MTSS
 - ✓ The Call to Value Black Students' Potential
 - ✓ Supporting Struggling Learners
- **On Line Learning:** *(The expectation was that all staff are confident with technology expectations for at-home learning)*
 - ✓ **GNSPES accounts, Google classroom, handing in assignments, Jam board, Seesaw, etc.**
- **Black Lives Matter in Education:**

Understanding Anti Black Racism, Systemic Racism, Inclusive Policy:

 - ✓ Focus on equity by supporting success for students who are historically marginalized and racialized (African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq/ Aboriginal students).
 - ✓ Act collectively to name, eliminate, and prevent systemic inequities and barriers within the classroom, schools, region, and system.
 - ✓ Create and support positive, accessible, and equitable learning environments where students feel welcome, safe, and can access and reach their academic potential

Outdoor Classroom:

PTO Garden fund paid to replace the muddy mulch with pea stone. Mark Gouthro, Ricky Sloan, Rod and their families spread the stone in one evening! We are very grateful!

Martin Luther King Day- African Heritage Month:

Classes have been engaged in learning about and creating art pieces celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This learning will extend through the month with whole school learning activities and a compilation created by Ms. Teixeira and our classroom teachers.

February is Registration month for Preprimary and Primary

Information to follow.

February 08-12 Lockdown Drill (Second of two drills for the year)

A letter will be going home.

Valentine's Day:

Valentine's Day is coming up soon and we will be sharing Virtual Valentine's through digital mediums such as Flipgrid this year in lieu of distributing traditional paper valentines. During the week of February 8th to 12th we will also focus on and celebrate Kindness Week at Ash Lee Jefferson.

Grade 5s

On January 29th the Guidance Counsellor from GPV will be virtually visiting our grade 5s to begin prepping them for the transition to their next school.

Meeting Notes:

1. **Christmas Spirit** – Music Presentations, “Jingles and Mrs. Claus” visited. Santa was there for bus duty.
2. **Professional Development Week**
 - Successful sessions, positive week with staff feeling empowered, reviewed planning/Equitable Learning/Black Lives Matter/Changes required due to Covid 19. Also putting together an Equity Team.
 - support staff also received PD.
3. **Outdoor Classroom**
 - PTO purchased pea stone to replace muddy, slippery mulch and replaced by generous volunteers on a Friday evening.
4. **Martin Luther King Day/African Heritage Month** – will tweet pictures of Art produced.
5. **February is Registration Month for Pre-Primary and Primary**
 - Encourage any families with children this age to register, registration is done online.
6. **February 9th will be Lockdown Drill.**
7. **Valentine's Day**
 - Valentine's cards will not be permitted to be handed out this year because of COVID restrictions, instead the school will have a Kindness week and encourage students to pay a compliment to a friend/staff/family member. Some teachers have set up online Valentine's for their students to send which required a great deal of pre-planning and time but will be well received by students.
8. **Grade 5's visit from GPV and band teacher**
 - visit to prepare Grade 5 students for Junior High and visit from Band teacher to discuss types of instruments they can select. Visit was a success.
9. **PTO** - bought this year's Christmas Ornament (snowman with mask) for each family.

COVID 19 Protocol Changes

- Returned to allowing running shoes to go home and back in case schools close again to avoid issues experienced during last shut down.
- Singing is now permitted in school provided students wear masks and are 6 feet apart.

Buses – Update

- Positive experience to date with the buses this year

Purchasing with SAC Money – Update

- The Chromebooks the SAC ordered have been received, the Physical Education equipment has been ordered, but not delivered yet.

Other Business

- Concerns brought forward regarding traffic on Lockview Drive, the speed of cars and the short distance between the 30km School Zone sign and the actual school. Suggested that all members contact both 311 and the councillor to voice concerns to see if distance between school and signs can be lengthened. Lynn and Jennifer to also inform school Liaison officer and will also contact 311.
- Wellness Survey Completed by students in Grades 4-8 and results indicated 96% and 94% completed. 6-10 students indicated that they do not always feel that they belong. The follow-up question indicated that a few students misunderstood the question, however steps are being taken to discuss social and emotional well-being with teachers and come up with a plan to address those students who require help. The survey questions will be sent out again in April to re-examine.
- Live link now online for school clothing. School colours are the primary blue/red/yellow as in logo. This allows Grade 5's to order the graduation sweatshirts as is tradition. Any funds received by school from this company will be put into technology. Any students who are brought to their attention that want school clothing, but cannot afford, support will be given to them so as not to have them left out.

Meeting closed at 7:18pm

- **NEXT MEETINGS: Monday, April 5th at 6:30, May 3rd, June 7th**

(To fulfill minimum 6 meeting requirement, these will need to be rescheduled if any need to be cancelled.)