



**Minutes - Ash Lee Jefferson (ALJ) School Advisory Council (SAC)
2021/22 - October 25, 2021**

ATTENDEES:

Chastity McKinnon	SAC Chair
Jennifer Cholock-Whitty	Vice-Principal
Danielle Milbrath	Community Member/Secretary
Jennifer McMillan	HRCE Staff
Colin Murchison	Parent
Angela Ewing	HRCE Staff
Shelley Hume	Parent
Jamie Davis	Parent

REGRETS:

Lynn Mills (Principal)
Holly Hearn (HRCE Staff)
David Tucker (observer)

Meeting started: 6:35pm

MINUTES:

Principal's Report: (Jennifer Cholock-Whitty)

1) Routines/structures/Covid (how does school look and feel this year?)

Routine, structure and masks continue. Administration continues to assess what 2020-2021 changes will be adopted based on HRCE and Public Health advice. For now, students coming into the building directly in the morning will remain. In the past students had the opportunity to play on the playground but due to cohorts and the advantages seen last year, the students will continue to come directly into classrooms where they do a soft start. Teachers find that the students are much more prepared to start and ready to get to work at 810 when they have some time to get settled, chat with friends and do some reading or get extra help in the mornings. The bus dismissal will also remain the same and there will continue to be more small group work.

2) Movement Breaks (Cohorts)

Students have 2 movement breaks daily . They have cohorts and can intermingle within their cohorts. This is less structured then last year but seems to work best for contact tracing and minimizing contact.

3) Lunch Hour (Cafeteria/Cohorts)

There are 2 lunchtimes; students spend 20 minutes inside and outside. Cohorts are the same for lunch as movement breaks. As approved by the Province we did return to the cafeteria briefly but due to fluctuating Covid cases and number of students we decided to move back to classrooms for lunch.

4) Students Coming to School When Sick

Although we understand parents face logistical challenges, we must ask that parents follow Public Health Guidelines and keep their children home when sick, especially during any contagious period or when they have Covid symptoms. If presenting symptoms of Covid we recommend the student take a Covid test and once the negative result is received and symptoms subside they then return to school. We will look into whether the Province will provide more at home testing kits. Each child should have received 1 kit with 4 tests. *(Ms Cholock will follow up on this).*

5) P-2 Literacy Initiative

The past couple of years has impacted the children's learning especially grades 1 and 2 in regards to literacy. Even though we were back in school last year, things looked different and many of the learning opportunities like small group work couldn't happen in the same way as the past. Provincially there is a goal for all children P-2 to be reading at level by the end of the school year. We are doing things very intentionally and working with our support staff and intervention specialists to assist those children who need additional support. We have regular meetings and are continuously evaluating children and looking at what more needs to be done to move kids along. The province is tracking students in P-2 and we will broaden that to assess P-2, plus 3,4 and 5 at ALJ.

6) Support (SLD teacher and French RR)

Ash Lee is fortunate to have an assigned SLD teacher who works with children with severe learning difficulties. She is providing intensive support 4 days/week. We also have a French reading recovery teacher who provides daily small group interventions.

7) Terry Fox Run

This was a great day and a great success. The students participated in the walk/run on the field and also had rich conversations about 'Everyday Hero's' in the classroom.

8) Mi'kmaw History Month- Path of Hope

Both students and teachers were able to spread awareness and have age appropriate discussions about residential schools. Some spoke and learned about the work of Gord Downey or read the book 'the Secret Path'. We are also collecting palm sized rocks and plan to create a Path of Hope, an outside garden of painted rocks.

9) Remembrance Day/Other Events

Remembrance Day will continue to look different this year. We will not be welcoming visitors or guests but we will be opening classroom doors and performing music safely together as a group.

We are also exploring what we can do for a Holiday concert. There is nothing confirmed yet but plan to do something special. We are limited with video as we have to consider children who do not have a media release.

Some parents have expressed frustration over Halloween and our decision to not allow costumes. We stand by our decision to have a black and orange day verses allowing costumes. We continue to try and limit the transfer of items back and forth from home to school with the hope of keeping our school safer from Covid 19.

10) Parent-Teacher Meetings

Will be held virtually. The online booking will start in November.

11) Class configuration for 2021/22

English		French Immersion	
Primary	Smith-Phillips	Primary	VanWageningen
1	Hilton	Primary	Walsh
1/2	Reed	1	Elson
2/3	MacFarlane	1	Stary-Brown
3	Payne	1/2	O’Connell
3/4	Hobbs/Marshall	2	Ayres/Chiasson
4	Ross/Marshall	2/3	Landrigan
5	Cannon	3/4	Tortola
5	O’Hearn	3/4	MacLean
		4/5	Ward/MacLean
		4/5	Pyke

NEW BUSINESS

1) Police Liaison

There is a police officer attached to our school but with limited availability. We are mostly supported by Constable St Pierre who is a parent and assists us with traffic, Lock down and hold and secure drills. We are lucky to have him and thank him for his assistance.

2) ALJ Feature

We will be highlighting the staff at Ash Lee throughout the year. We will be reaching out to all ALJ staff for submissions.

3) SAC Membership

Our required membership numbers are confirmed if all parent representatives want to continue

SAC agreement is not posted online and we need to do a new Letter of Agreement. Will be posted to the website

4) SAC meetings

Will continue virtually for now. We will continue to re-assess as the year progresses

2021-2022 SCHEDULE

November 29

January 31

February 28

April 25

May 30

June 13, if needed

Meeting closed at 7:25pm