

Caldwell Road Elementary School

SAC Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 23rd

Present: Jeff Winship (Parent), Jessica Quillan (Parent), Mamoonna Brace (principal), Lisa Dickens (grade 2 Teacher), Robin Lawlor (grade 1 and Reading Recovery Teacher), Lisa Sawler-Padfield (lunch staff member)

Regrets: ,Christine Fong (Parent/Chair) Becky Stickings (VP and grade 3 Teacher) ,

- Welcome / Attendance /Quorum
- Principal's Report
 - **African Heritage Month** - (share Google Meet slide deck). Google meet takes place 3 times a week. Highlighted different African Canadians and revisited the Kwanzaa Principles. Each class was responsible for picking at least one African Nova Scotian/African Canadian to have their class learn about. Then they all had to sign up for 1 Google meet where some of their students would share their knowledge whichever way they wanted. This will go through until April. We are also preparing for an African Heritage Assembly March 7th where we will put together a video of the different classes sharing their learning. Our students have been learning the words to Lift Every Voice and we will be singing it as a whole school. Our grade 6 class took part in the Buddy Daye African Nova Scotian History Challenge. One student was so inspired and sewed an African Nova Scotian Flag himself. Every day we play O Canada and the students remain standing for Lift Every Voice. We will continue to play Lift Every Voice frequently throughout the rest of the year. Our celebration of Black Excellence is not just for a month. Teachers embed this throughout the year.
 - **Guest speakers** - Thank you to Jessica Quillan and Becky Stickings for arranging some wonderful guest speakers. So far we have had Augy Jones, Nate Phillippe, Duan Ash, and Jessica Quillan speak. The majority of the speakers are speaking to our grade 5 and 6s. We are going to be having speakers come throughout April as well.
 - **Flags** - we have bought a tri-indoor flag pole and have put up the Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, and Progressive Pride Flags. Thank you to Jessica Quillan for the suggestion of indoor flag poles. Would the SAC cover the \$336 it cost for these items?
 - **Anti-racist Education** - as a staff we are continuing the conversations around anti-racist education. At our last staff meeting we watched a webinar by Destine Lord -Destine Lord is a consultant, communicator, connector and facilitator working toward the elimination of racism in Canada. Destine spoke about the definitions of Anti-Racism, Racism, Anti-black racism, and Systemic racism. She also discussed the difference between intent vs impact and cultural competence. We are going to watch the rest of the webinar at our next staff meeting and continue the conversations around equality vs equity and microaggressions.

- **Logo update** - this is the latest draft of the Logo. The Kwanzaa principle Umoja is represented in the center. Umoja means unity. The Mi'kmaq symbol for child surrounds this. We are looking to hire a graphic designer to take it from the draft to a more polished iteration.
- **Breakfast club update** - we are waiting for our new industrial fridge to be delivered but we have to find an alternative spot for one of the fridges currently in the staff room first. We are also waiting for the last couple of cupboards and then we can get a counter top put in. The school has paid for this installation with some support from HRCE Breakfast Program. Students are emptying the bins very quickly. Once we have a fridge we hope that our parent volunteers will come in to cut up vegetables and fruit and that we can more variety for our Breakfast Club.
- **Registration month** - registrations have been coming in via online. Pre-primary does not have to re-register but they do have to register at Astral if they are going in early French Immersion. It is important that we have as many registrations as possible as this informs the staffing that is allocated to us for next year.
- **Pennies for Books campaign** - in support of our library we are participating in Tattletales' pennies for books campaign. During our Google meets we have been sharing the updates. Currently our families have donated approximately \$650. This monies will be given to Tattletales who will then have an account set up so we can purchase books at a discounted price.
- **Squiggle Park** - Online Literacy learning tool for students grades 1-3. We would like to purchase the license for our grades 1-3. The cost should be \$1220. Would the SAC be willing to cover that?
- **Report Cards-** Report cards will be coming out at the end of March with our Parent Teacher taking place on March 30th. Parents should feel free to connect with the teachers prior to this if they have any questions or concerns.
- **Grants:**
 - South Eastern Health Board Grant - thanks to Dana Grant who was kind enough to write up a grant for "Gimme a break bins". We received \$1500 and will be spending that money creating bins that teachers can use for indoor recesses. The goal is to have STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) items in them to encourage the students to explore and problem solve. Becky Stickings and Mamoona Brace accepted the cheque at a ceremony at the Black Cultural Center on Feb 7th.
 - HSC (Healthy School Communities) Grant - \$500 for "Peace and Play"- this is for Bins for outdoor equipment, paint for outside games, outdoor equipment such as sticky balls game, skipping ropes, soccer balls, etc.
 - Extra Breakfast Club Grant - we received some more monies for our Breakfast Club.
 -
- **SSP Update-**
 - SLP and Resource met with P-2 teachers to go over what phonological assessments showed (gaps, strengths). This gave teachers additional information so that they can support the students that are not yet meeting expectations.

- SLP finishing work with one of the Primary classes on using the Expanded Expression Tool (strengthens oral language). Will begin with other class third term.
 - Purchasing 3 copies of UFLI - one for each grade level. Cost \$360 - Would SAC cover that?
 - As a staff we are reading the book Shifting the Balance. In Shifting the Balance, authors Jan Burkins and Kari Yates address the ongoing disagreements about how to teach reading as a critical opportunity to look closely at the research, reevaluate current practices, and embrace new possibilities for an even stronger enactment of balanced literacy.
 - We offered to P-2 staff a mini course on sight words and bought the course for those who wanted it.
 - Our SLP is doing assessments on grade P students to see where they are at this point in the year with letter recognition, sound recognition, and words. She will then connect with the teachers to share the information. This is helpful to teachers as it adds more data and helps them with their planning of lessons.
 - We continue to use short cycle planning as a tool to guide our plans and direction in the areas of math, literacy, and well being.
 - Our upper elementary teachers worked with the Math Coach on Fact fluency. Fact fluency for grades 4-6 is one of the goals for improvement.
 - Students in grades P-3 are making progress in their learning, reading, and writing. Our teachers continue to focus on oral language, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness and connecting it all to decoding (reading) and encoding (writing).
- Financial - So far the SAC has supported the school by funding decodable books and the Grade 5 Trip to the Discovery Center. If the SAC approves all of the requested items today (Squiggle Park for grades 1-3, Flag poles cost, UFLI professional resource for teachers) that will come to a total cost of \$1916. Currently there is \$3789.81 left of the SAC grant. This would leave \$1873.
 - SAC members voted and passed the motion to approve the above costs.