



**Ross Road School**  
**SAC Meeting Agenda + Minutes**  
**January 14, 2025**

**Attendance:** Kim, Alana, Renee, Matt, April, Alison, Sonja, Valerie  
Junior high leadership: Cooper, Lily, Stephanie

**Regrets:** Renise, Karen, (Absent: Garnett, Rose)

1. Call to order: 6:33
2. Land and People Acknowledgement
3. Approval of Agenda/Last Meeting Summary Notes
  - a. First agenda: April
  - b. Second agenda: Matt
  - c. First meeting notes: Before approval Change to the regrets (Renee and Sonja added). Matt approved as amended
  - d. Second meeting notes: April approved as amended
4. Jr. High Leaders / Student Voice:
  - a. Lily: Bus  
Students are not following expectations of bus drivers, which includes walking or switching seats while moving (safety risks), taking pics/videos without consent, loud videos being played. Also dogpiling, inappropriate language, pushing to get to seat they want, morning arrival standing before bus comes to complete stop. Jumping over the seats.  
Possible solutions from kids:  
firm rules  
vice principal comes on bus to try and enforce  
assign junior high leaders on the bus to correct kids (but harder to police peers)  
be supportive to the bus driver, help share reports (both in mornings or afternoons)  
Kim will address the student leadership leader to have student leaders help bus

drivers, give them reports, support where they can. Kim will also inform bus dispatch.

b. Stephanie: Classroom environment

Class volumes are sometimes loud and students are not working accordingly. If students do something not ok, teachers don't always follow through with, for example, calling home about that behaviour. There is also not enough opportunity for collaborative group work.

Students want better classroom management

Students want consistency

Students want to work in group collaboration

Kim will discuss with teachers

c. Cooper: field trips

Field trips for junior high would be skiing, Neptune theatre (Jonathan Grady arranges that Neptune comes to our school, last year they came for elementary, this year they'll come for junior high later in April. We may invite grade 6 for this), more regional arts with Mr. Grady. Grade 9 end of year event (Atlantic Splash or Splashifax depending on mobility/accessibility), girls' conference (grade 7, 8, 9, conference to pump up girls' confidence, women empowerment in the workplace, in May). Other ideas for field trips:

Mr. Smith's: disc golf (Dartmouth commons, Mineville)

If the water park is not an option for grade 9: hotel for overnight stay (no from Ms. LeBlanc)

5. For student leadership, do we want them to also learn about policy or the other issues?

→ Yes, we can bring them or keep them longer, or have specific topics for them.

**On-going Business:**

6. Bike Trail

- a. The HRM (2016) Green Network Plan for trails within the HRM but not much has happened yet. Community group could perhaps accelerate the Lawrencetown Beach to Salt Marsh Trail project, which would include paths in between neighbourhoods and school. However, city was sued, and needs power to zone trails and make them into trails. Supreme Court decision makes the plan/project unavailable. City does still want this, so they're working with city lawyers to see if they can come up with a plan. (Annapolis Group Inc vs HRM)

7. Roof Project

- a. The roof over the gymnasium is being replaced. Work has started, is ongoing, end date is weather-dependent. They had a little setback over the holidays (tools were stolen). School will let parents/people know when the project is completed. Capital budget covers the project.

8. Review of SAC Agreements, Bylaws, Council Membership and Term of Completion

- a. Collecting statements/thoughts on the new structure (will be attached to minutes)
- b. We will have to double check SAC guidelines where we can meet quorum → we do need someone from each group representing and voting

- c. Kim will work on plan for next school year
- 9. SSP: Student Achievement update
  - a. Grade 4 students who had written the grade 3 assessment last year, any grade 4 student who got a 1 or a 2 are getting a second chance. Those children will do the reading portion again (not all students). There are three opportunities to re-assess, first option was right before Christmas break, and was determined not an option.  
Option:  
**March 3-6** (although a few days are non-school, right before March break)  
**May 1-16** → picked as best option  
Question from the participants at SAC for principal to ask other principals:
    - Was there an issue with the test or the questions on the test?
    - What was the issue with the first set of results?
    - What there push back to the province from REDs?
    - What will the results tell us?
    - Will the 2nd set of results override the 1st?
    - Why was this not brought to SAC for consultation?
    - How will the province/school manage the stigma?
  - b. Grade 8 math is another focus for the HRCE. All students are performing above 65 for the first data pull (in classroom assessment). This is an improvement compared to last year.
  - c. P-3 literacy: improving student reading. This year we have a 101 students in those grade levels, 3 of whom African Nova Scotian, 1 Indigenous, 1 both ANS and IND. Out of all students, only 8 are not meeting benchmark (and in category of “others”, not ANS or IND or both). Every student that is identified in that group of 8 is showing on the data wall created by the teachers and are getting extra support in the form of a guided classroom situation with teacher, sometimes with resource teacher in classroom, sometimes with resource teacher outside classroom, either in small groups or 1:1.
  - d. Next meeting will discuss second cycle teacher SSP plans. We will share what teachers have gathered for us and how different groups of students are doing.

**New Business:**

- 10. How would we like to see the SAC move forward in 2025?
  - What should the SAC take part in to develop our relationship in the community?
  - How can we support students and school improvement?
    - o Defer to next meeting
- 11. Healthy school community grant, \$580 to badminton equipment

**AOB:**

- 12. Renise's points:
  - a. African Nova Scotian students' performance

- b. Support from community after incident New Year's Eve (three deaths connected to North Preston community, three students at school are very close in relations with the victims). By Monday there was a support plan with Sheldon Cane to stay at Ross Road, our school psychologist was at our school for that day, Angela Carter as councilor, the school social worker was also at our school, and the safe school consultant. There was a student that day that needed to lean on Sheldon Cane.
  - i. We need to tell them that they need to come up with a better response. We would have liked to have seen the support group available on Friday when the students went back to school. Monday was too delayed. Also, the support should have been prolonged.
  - ii. Intensive response on just one day is insufficient (grief doesn't happen just on one day)
  - iii. Will there be sympathy from our school community?

Adjourned: 8:21