



**Ross Road School
SAC Meeting Agenda
November 5, 2024**

Attendance: Kim, Alana, Karen, Alison, April, Valerie (junior high leaders: Cooper, Curteo, Ivy, Stephanie, Emma)

Regrets: Matt, Renice

- 1. Call to order: 6.37**
- 2. Land and People Acknowledgement**
- 3. Attendance/Regrets**
- 4. Approval of Agenda/Last Meeting Summary Notes**
 - a. First agenda: Valerie
 - b. Second agenda: Alison
 - c. First meeting notes: Valerie
 - d. Second meeting notes: Alison
- 5. Jr. High Leaders: Student Voice:**
 - a. Beginning of last year, junior high leadership team was started. They now have some responsibilities in planning and have a voice in some matters at school.
 - b. What does junior high leaders do?**
 - i. Emma:**
Hot dogs sales every month: that gives junior high leaders a chance to participate in the kitchen (handing out food, preparing the food) (home and school volunteers do the cooking). Goal of the money: for grade 9, for a graduation party, the money is used for an event before leaving high school.
 - ii. Suggestion:** what is the money from the fundraising being used for? → put this information on the flyer. For now, also include the information in the newsletter
 - iii. Helping with home and school events:** junior high leaders help setting up with decorations for dances for example.
 - iv. Helping deliver the universal lunch to elementary students,** and assist with the breakfast program, which helps junior high

students experience in something what adults would normally do.
Helps build responsibility.

- v. **SAC participation:** student voice helps students in junior high have more of a voice. There is a great variety of kids helping out and participating.
- vi. **Feedback for universal lunch program:** students give their feedback about the lunch program:
 - 1. **First impression on first day:** mac 'n cheese: it was cold and the one with meat was not very good. It was "good enough", but it was cold. The provider was early (not knowing what to expect) and everything went faster than expected. By the time it got to the students that day, the food was cold. **Next day**, they adjusted their timing and there was no complaints.
 - 2. One of the days, the spaghetti was cold.
 - 3. Students would like to request what they'd like to see on the menu. This was brought up to the leader of the lunch program (Mr. McNeil) mentioned it is something they will look into for next year. Right now, across NS, all schools have the exact same menu on the same day, but they want to take in requests potentially next school year.
 - 4. Some of the favorite meals?
 - a. Butter chicken
 - b. Spaghetti
 - c. French Toast
 - 5. We like how there's various options (like vegetarian options)
- vii. **Cooper:**
School yard safety: A few weeks ago one of the learning center kids fell off the swings in the front, and swing harnesses were suggested. The back pad could use additional play equipment.
Suggestions like:
 - 1. swings and one of the spinning things like out in the front
 - 2. a four-seated seesaw
 - 3. tetherball
- viii. Some of the equipment isn't being used anymore and this could be replaced or changed up.
- ix. **Carteo:**
Parking lot: lots of bumps. Parents complain, bus drivers complain
- x. The pot holes get filled in randomly with gravel by Home and School when they do the cleanup, but one bit of rain washes it all away
- xi. It would be best if it was fully paved and properly repaired, but this is capital budget and the roof is our allocation for capital budget. Kim will try to get this addressed in capital budget soon.
- xii. **The picture of our school on the website is not great:** it shows the whole parking lot. We would like a new picture.

xiii. **Classroom environment:**

Cell phones:

New rule in school is not changing much for the students, but they're also not a big distraction in the classroom. It's not going to let kids fall behind class, but they shouldn't have them in the classroom regardless.

Some teachers take the phones on their desk or drawer or into the principal's office: there is no consistency among the teachers.

It seems like distractions are reduced.

xiv. **Going to the lockers during class:** every time in the hallway at the lockers, students are looking at their phones. Maybe policy among teachers about this.

xv. **Some things that aren't going well:**

1. Language in the classroom, like racial or sexuality slurs
2. Sub-teachers are sometimes simply ignored
3. Observation that we need to make sure that during humid days, we should have more fans or dehumidifiers in the school
4. Encourage students to be positive role models for their peers
5. Back to back classes from the same teacher: maybe a quick movement break in between

xvi. **Stephanie:**

Outdoor classroom:

1. We should relocate it, kids are complaining that it's too hot in that location.
2. It could also use a new board. The material looks weather-beaten.
3. New tables because writing right now is hard.
4. Maybe tech classes can build tables for the classroom
5. Shade options (like an umbrella or portable screens, pergola with climbing vines)

Ongoing Business:

6. SAC vacancies:

- a. We have enough parents, student members and staff members. What we're missing is community members.
- b. Request is in the newsletter, and we're asking junior high leaders as well to talk to their parents
- c. Community members should not have kids at school nor work here, but live in the areas our students come from
- d. April & Renice: reach out in communities

7. Accessibility at RRS:

- a. Student services does not recommend an accessibility walk (how accessible the building and property is) because they don't feel we have a student who necessarily needs it on a daily basis.
- b. However, whenever people get injured for example, so the need might arise.
- c. School commitment to keep working on this to improve the conditions for students or staff who need accessibility improved

8. Bike Trail:

- a. Deferred to next meeting

9. Roof Project (update):

- a. New scope of work for flooding in the playground, some of the roof drainage needs to be redone or replaced
- b. Gymnasium roof is being replaced.
- c. They met with Alana: they've started the staging in the week of Nov. 4th.
- d. What was good about the walkthrough: pointing out the issues with the roof and immediately pointed out other issues like flooding on the property around the school.
The roof wasn't graded right, spouts were in wrong locations.
They start the work when the students leave and hope to be done before the big winter.

New Business:

10. SSP update:

- a. Three student success goals: math, literacy and well-being.
- b. How are we going to improve their learning? Short-cycle planning:
 - i. Communicating expectations
 - ii. Planning for positive learning environment
 - iii. Knowledge of students
- c. Strategies:
 - i. Routines and expectations
 - ii. Relations with the students
 - iii. Improve interest
 - iv. Engage regularly with families: when the new framework was created for African Nova Scotian education, things are changing for the better.
- d. The school board is working hard to change views of staff as well and educating the staff.
- e. Stop putting children on IPPs unless there is a strong indication the child can't learn cognitively; otherwise, refrain from IPPs.
- f. Some people feel like the bar has lowered for junior-high: some they tell students to teach themselves, not much homework (and consequentially no strategies to help build planning habits)

- i. No repercussions if they don't complete their assignments
 - ii. Some kids are not being sufficiently challenged
- g. The new curriculum should address this, but we should not need to be slow getting to this. **We need more rigor.**
- h. There's also limited family involvement.
- i. **Junior High SSP:**
 - i. Well-being (will directly influence how students do academically:
 - ii. Many things are going well, however:
Percentage (20-30%) does not feel safe in the classroom.
When the students use slurs this can upset students. Swearing can be unnerving for some students.
Some students may not understand the impact.
 - iii. We are still in the data-gathering phase, but will continue to delve deeper about this so it can be addressed.

11. Any Other Business (Home and School update)

a. Healthy schools grant

- i. **SAC has a chance to guide us on how to spend it**
- ii. Some of the ideas:
 - 1. Mambec: teaches self-discipline and respect. Works with students and classes to follow direction, be respectful, honing into their strengths even when things are hard, letting out anger in a healthy way (talking, sharing why you're angry).
 - 2. Ski-trip for grade 4-6 or 7-9 (or both)
 - 3. Skating at the oval
 - 4. Accessible swing and slide
 - 5. Replacement of wood chips in the playground
 - 6. Outdoor fitness station
 - 7. Disc-golf stations for outdoors
 - 8. Picnick tables with umbrellas
 - 9. Ringette gear
 - 10. Self-defense (for junior high)
 - 11. First aid (elements of this gets shown)
- iii. Community outreach work: babysitter course and home alone course/program
- iv. Outdoor classroom:
 - 1. Quick solves like umbrella or shade providers to work with the heat
 - 2. Potential relocation
 - 3. Durable board that will stand the elements

b. Excel

- i. Not enough workers to be hired
- ii. School is not responsible for Excel, but are not the ones who hires or run the program

12. Adjournment: 8:19