



**Ross Road School  
SAC Meeting Notes  
February 23, 2023  
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

Attendance: Alison Stark, Natasha Trudel, Karen Dawe, Renée Masching, Sonya Malle-Keating, Valerie van Acquoij, Alana Conrad, Kim LeBlanc

Regrets: Garnett Estabrooks, Keniyah Provo, Liana Field, Michael McCarthy, Niara Smith, Willow Field

**1. Call to order / Land Acknowledgement – Karen Dawe**

**2. Approval of January Meeting Summary Notes**

- home and school update re: fundraising activities and update re: library refresh request missing  
Approved with update pending by: Valerie, second Karen

**3. Approval of February Agenda**

- Aob – staffing and jr high issues  
Approved by: Valerie, second Karen

*Follow up from previous minutes*

- As of yesterday, Mr Middleton's absence to be extended to May 26
  - o Current teacher's last day would be tomorrow (Feb 24) and she has a new job as of Monday... so will not be available
  - o Plan to try to work on a plan, maybe co-teach in May upon return
- Unable to sustain the program right now and this is happening across the Board where there are gaps and no human resources to fill the position
  - o Both an issue with French Immersion and also a problem with Math teachers overall
- Ross Road admin asking for a sit down meeting asap (by early next week) with Supervisor, (HR manager) to grapple through the challenges and consider what we have been experiencing since September.
  - o Express SAC's concern in sit down meeting next week too

*Discussion:*

- Can Ross Road offer French Immersion? French math? Science?
  - o Could there be some help with vocabulary from French Immersion language teacher?
  - o Online? Google classroom?
  - o Collaborate with flipped classroom assignments to work at home with teachers who are available?
  - o Universite Ste Anne? MSVU student teachers?
  - o Special codes/sub days that might be able to pull in some subs who speak French
- Recognize that every industry is short staffed

- All part of the NS Dept of Education but different Boards, could there be a way to 'reach across' the boundaries and partner with the French Board?
- Co-write something together to senior management
  - o Small school that we love
  - o Offered program
  - o Frustration with how things are proceeding
- **Important to access at the end of the current school year**, please inform parents to help them to make a different decision with children to be able to prioritize a French Education so that plans can be made for September.

**New Business:**

**1. SSP**

- Teachers have been participating in Teacher Support Team meetings, Professional Learning Community meetings to support student achievement. Most recently, the P-2 PLC has created Data Walls as a visual to track student reading levels. P-2 PLC has invited Liana Field to their next meeting to discuss the Strong Start Reading program.

**2. Membership / Recruitment (Student Rep.)**

- No students online today and nothing brought forward in advance

**3. SAC Funds**

- Previous year funds all allocated for computer carts (2) and some chromebooks which have arrived

\$5363 for this year

- QMac and Maritime Dance were paid for with this year's funds

3 new requests - ~ \$3.5K left

- Beckie Wright – books ~1,000
  - o Garnet shared he would be in support of this
- Grade 2 with flexible seating ~ 5,000
- Library refresh ~
  - o Been discussed at Home and School for some years, approximately a \$17K overall, \$8000 donated anonymously, HRCE will supply a carpenter and supplies, outstanding is now \$3K to \$3.2K
  - o Consider that this will benefit all the school as the only room other than gym that all the students access
  - o Part of RRS wellness goals to complete this refresh

**Final agreement** \$500 for each teacher, \$500 buffer (to be reviewed later in year) and remainder to the library (Kim will confirm the numbers)

**4. Special Reports/School Events**

**Home and School Update**

- Home and School just did the Mitchell Soup and now planning for a BINGO specifically for the library, Dance coming in March and consideration to repeat Walk-a-Thon and the Spring Fair and year end dance in June theme is Hollywood
- Working on the Gaga Ball pit and Fence, waiting for HRM
- Home and School generally has a cut off in December for teacher requests – both SAC and H&S are open to all teachers.
- Term Teacher evaluations to be completed by end of March

## General updates

- Literacy coach to support Gr 7 ELA
  - o Report from teacher and coach about learnings
  
- New funds for Breakfast program – food related (additional \$9,200), to be spent by end of March
  - o Jr High and Elementary teachers have brought some ideas, working with the kitchen in the school which has some updated appliances
  - o Going to purchase some more appliances to update the space
  
- NSCC warehouse to purchase government surplus furniture est \$40K
  - o New tables, Board room tables for staff rooms upstairs and down stairs, new teacher chairs, new tool kits (snap on)
  - o Refresh for Ross Road and an update
  - o Deliveries coming in this week
  
- African NS Heritage Month
  - o Bringing this into all activities
  - o Maritime Center for African Dance, Feb. 1 (kick off to African NS Heritage Month)
  
- Registration month
  - o So far only receiving registrations from kids we know in pre-primary (24 pre-primaries coming and maybe more from community)
  
- ABCs of North Preston book launch
  - o Some RRS students who were part of this when they were at Nelson Wynder – started as a PPT and evolved to a book
  - o Every school has a copy and Kim has one too
  - o All students signed the back cover
  
- Feb 1 Global day of Play
  - o Well received for the elementary students
  - o All child centred
  
- Jr. High School Trip to Cineplex: Woman King (Student Support Grant)
- 5/6 Class Trip to Pottery Lab at Cole Harbour High School
- IB Coordinator from CHH on Feb 13, every student attended the assembly and 19 students are interested and will be invited to another meeting with the coord and will have some time with current IB students
- Cole Harbour High presentation on O2 and Skill Trades programs, Feb. 16
- Drama Club on Wednesdays with Mr. Grady (HRCE Fine Arts Dept.)
- Dal women and engineering event for 3 students – very well received
- March 3 – Girls in Action Conference at MSVU (63 youth attending)
- Girls basketball team won Championship! Brand new team, a number of grade 7s
- Lockdown Drill Feb. 21 (rescheduled from Feb. 14 – Delayed Start due to inclement weather)
  - o Constable Serge Landry – CART (Community Action Response Team) Officer – did lock down drill together, went through the activity with Kim.
    - Senior class didn't take it seriously and reminded so that they would be ready for a real event

- Noisiest location becomes the target!
- GSA on Tuesdays (with Ms. Ashely, Ms. Ash and Ms. LeBlanc)

#### **5. (Any) Other Business:**

##### Internet Safety

- Photos were being shared and copied from other people's accounts
- Review of the comments being made led to deeming the comments as sexual harassment
- An issue that is coming up at various schools
- Student presentation at Ross Road
  - Specific terminology discussed – luring, child pornography, Criminal code can be applied as young as 12 years old
  - Deep fake – where people can grab images and modify
  - Helped students to better understand more about what is child pornography, describe what is sexting, sexualized pictures (clothed or not) – anyone under the age of 18 are still breaking the law
- Link back to cell phone rule that phones have to be put in the locker and can't come into the classroom as part of school safety
- Support in place from guidance?
  - 4 main students involved and they were supported
  - A lot of students were upset by an incident that had happened
    - Vigilante justice when one of the children returned to school after a punishment where a group of kids surrounded a student
    - Reminder that adults were aware and taking action
- Is there an ongoing social media program taught at the school?
  - This is in curriculum and some do take it in (starts at least by grade 5/6)

More information to come and upcoming news for CART presentation – next week likely

Next meeting: April 27<sup>th</sup> 6pm unless plans need to change