



Ross Road School
Proud, Determined, Strong

Ross Road School
SAC Meeting Notes
January 26, 2023 (rescheduled to Feb. 2)

Attendance: Alana Conrad, Garnett Estabrooks, Liana Field, Willow Field, Kim LeBlanc, Sonya Malle-Keating, Michael McCarthy, Keniyah Provo, Niara Smith, Alison Stark, , Natasha Trudel, Valerie van Acquoij

Karen Dawe and MLA Angela Simmonds send their regrets

1. Call to order / Land Acknowledgement

We Acknowledge that we are in Mi'kmaki the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2. Approval of December Meeting Summary Notes

Garnett Estabrooks, Valerie van Acquoij

3. Approval of January Agenda

Garnett Estabrooks, Valerie van Acquoij

New Business:

1. Staffing (School Counsellor, FI Math and Science)

- Mr. Middleton leave is extended until Feb. 24, 2023. Students have expressed their concerns to their parents that there is a lot of repetition in Math. Alana Conrad explained that since Mr. Middleton's absence, there have been several short-term substitute teachers filling in. The long-term substitute teacher needed to repeat some instruction to ensure understanding before assessments were planned for evaluating student learning. SAC members who are have Jr. High students in FI are requesting that the teacher communicate to parents where they are in the yearly plan so they have an idea of how far behind they may be.
- Ms. Ash has begun and is meeting staff and students. She met with Admin to discuss highest priority profiles. Elementary students need parental consent to work with Counsellor, Jr. High Students can self-refer.

2. Student Success Plan (Share Gr. 3-6 T1 Math Data)

Teachers have collected their Term 1 Math data for the concepts of Representing Numbers and Partitioning. They are monitoring student progress, celebrating student success and sharing their concerns at Professional Learning Community meetings (every 3 weeks) and at Teacher Support Team meetings. At these meetings, we brainstorm ways we can support student learning, look at the data to decide how to best use the resources we have available to provide needed intervention. (Small group instruction, 1-1 support, Tier 1 resource in class, Tier 2 resource small group, Tier 3 resource 1-1, Speech Language Pathology Tier 1, 2, 3, etc.)

Gr. 3: Limited 4%, Developing 14%, Competent 64%, In-depth 18%

Gr. 3/4: Limited 9%, Developing 14%, Competent 54%, In-depth 23%

Gr. 4/5: Limited 25%, Developing 29%, Competent 13%, In-depth 33%

Gr. 5/6: Limited 18%, Development 41%, Competent 41%, In-depth 0%

Gr. 6: Limited 15%, Development 37%, Competent 33%, In-depth 15%

3. Heating in the school (update for invited guest: MLA Angela Simmonds)

- Garnet Estabrooks shared that the Larger oil tank (4000 liters) has been installed. Maintenance has put RRS on a new oil delivery schedule (1.5 months) and things seem to be going well since.

4. Membership / Recruitment (Student Rep.)

Willow Field, Student Representative Gr. 8 FI program, shared her concern that her Math teacher is English Speaking and students are concerned about their FI certificate. Ms. LeBlanc was reassured by the Program Consultants and Senior Staff of HRCE that the students will not be penalized for the pause in French instruction due to staffing issues. She also shared her concern that students in her class are not taking their learning seriously, there are a lot of projects and teachers are having trouble getting the students to listen and follow directions. The students are saying there is no point in learning because of the staffing issues they have experienced. The students are also saying that they really like the new School Counsellor and they feel supported while at school.

Michael McCarthy, Student Representative Gr. 8 ENG, shared his concern with the state of the Gaga Ball pit. He feels it needs to be repaired/replaced. Ms. LeBlanc shared that the Home and School as well as HRCE Operations and HRM is aware and are working on getting it fixed for the Spring. He shared that the prices for the vending machine are too expensive. And finally, he shared that he is a new student to Ross Road School and his overall experience feels good. He says he feels safe and supported as he moves around the school, and in class when he needs help, he knows he can ask and will get the help he needs.

Keniyah Provo and Niara Smith, Student Representatives of Gr. 9 FI, shared that they are concerned with being taught their Mathematics in English due to the staffing issues we are experiencing. They are worried that they are falling behind and want to make sure they are ready for Math and Science at High School level.

5. SAC Funds

- Quincy Mac (QMac) was wonderful. He kept the whole school population engaged and entertained. (staff and students Pre-Primary to Gr. 9) His message was about

knowing your self worth, staying in school and being an allstar student in school and in our community.

- Power Outages: Flashlights/headlamps are being donated for every classroom. Liana Field shared that she purchased some of the rechargeable bulbs we spoke about getting for the school last year. They last 1-2 hours. They seem to be a good fit for a home setting with lamps. Doesn't seem to be a good fit for a classroom setting and does not solve the problem of dark hallways, stairwells or washrooms. We will accept the donation of flashlights and headlamps. SAC agreed to purchase batteries for the flashlights.
- Teacher Requests for classroom items to support learning and well being
 - Beckie Wright: Books \$1079.86
 - Yolanda Cote: Furniture and Flexible seating \$5185.00 plus tax

6. Special Reports/School Events

- Jr. High Improv event at Cole Harbour District High School
- Santa Shop
- Spirit Week (favorite flannel, ugly Christmas Sweater, Winter Wonderland, Christmas Spirit, Merry Grinchmas, Candy Cane Day, Long Winter's Nap)
- Pancake Breakfast/Santa visit
- Literacy Coach working in the 3/4 Classroom (4 weeks)
- Math Support Teacher working with the Gr. 8 Math teachers/students (6 weeks)
- Girls and Boys Basketball teams are practicing and preparing for the season starting Jan. 4, 23
- Class group photos
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day was Jan. 16

7. **AOB:** School Supplies – Valerie van Acquoij shared an idea she and her husband have to start a business to support parents with the purchase of school supplies at the start of the school year. She has a website started named simpleschoolsupplies.ca. She is seeking approval from HRCE. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase their child's school supplies online from the website, based on the lists teachers provide. She would then do the shopping, bundle up the packages and deliver to the school. It was also discussed that parents could purchase ½ the supplies in September then the rest after the holiday break to replenish.