

**MDA SAC  
MINUTES  
5 NOVEMBER 2024**

PRESENT: Aaron Verge principal, Amanda Smith vice-principal, Alana Gammon chair, Savanna Munroe, Jeannie Hubley, Cst Kerry Chartrand, Judith Graham

REGRETS: Sam Bateman, Vicki Rutledge

Our second student rep may not be able to make meetings- if so will try to find a grade 11 student to take her place.

Business Arising from the minutes:

- Lounge furniture- needs to be fire retardant. Mr Verge to check with central storage to see if any is there.
- VR Oculus headsets- have been purchased.
- Staffing update – Full-time sub provisionally hired- Ms Gunn. Grade 5/6 position filled- Ms Vakhariya.
- SSP update- elementary and secondary SSP are being done. Ms Leslie is now the Early Literacy Support teacher for early elementary.
- Trip updates:
  - Tim Horton's Camp was attended for 3 days by grade 7 to 9 students, disappointing behaviour makes the future planning of this trip uncertain.
  - O2 class Trip to NSCC Pictou Campus.
  - St. Barbara's Mine- 2 classes visited and found this a very interesting and enjoyable experience.
  - Millbrook Cultural and Heritage Center in Truro visit by Ms Quigley and Ms Bateman's classes today.
  - Oceans class, in collaboration with Healthy Coastline Research Initiative, are being citizen scientists and collecting measurements on nearby coastline.
  - Dalhousie trip on December 2 with MISSW
- Upcoming events
  - November 8 – Remembrance Day ceremony 10:50
  - November 18 – RCMP Internet Safety and Youth Cybercrime Advisory Presentation-
  - December 11 – Christmas concert 6pm
  - December 17 – Tree lighting hot chocolate and caroling
  - There is a new website for the school.
- Staff training update
  - VTRA training – All teachers have completed online threat risk assessment; Can this be offered to support staff?
  - VP completed two day training at HRCE

Ms. Bateman has been selected as part of lead team for AI in education group

- School update – 2 fire drills have taken place so far, a third fire drill will take place this week. Hold and secure and lockdown drills have taken place as well.
- Other events – Dance and movie night for Hallowe'en- Student Union members had a lot of clean-up to do after the elementary movie before the high school dance in spite of parents attending with their children- a different form of event will be considered in the future.
- A Diwali celebration was put on for staff members.
- Workplace violence prevention plan- staff need to identify risks and have them written up.
- MDA now has a school psychologist- working on behaviours in the school.
- New school lunches- the students are enjoying the food and the program is going well. Need to order online a week in advance. There is increased waste but it is organic and biodegradable.
- Christmas dinner- a letter requesting support from community groups will be sent. There are some supplies from last year so will need to cut back on the list. Will need helpers for prep. Date not yet set. Possibly Wednesday December 18, storm day 19th. This will be a turkey dinner with no options.
- School supplies- a parent brought forward that their student's supplies have been used for other students. Discussion whether SAC money could be used for students that need supplies. Some school orders from bulk order which is cheaper and all look alike. SAC will vote at the end of the school year on this.
- The Head of Operations has visited the school and looked at the playground- the preprimary playground was identified as a hazard. O2 class students have moved this equipment to the field area. There may be a daycare opening on school property, operated through the province.
- Student Council- discussion about trying to increase school spirit and respect. The council has reps from each grade but is not well attended. Grade reps need to commit. Suggestion to supply food for lunch at the meetings. SAC can help financially with this. Suggestion to do group activities instead of dances? Need to involve parents for elementary students. Ideas would be a literacy night or amazing race, and to involve community members. SAC to help the Student Council and Ms Henley with this.
- Membership- SAC has two fewer teachers than last year and these positions need to be filled again. Also possibly need to find another student to attend.

Next meeting- November 5 at 2:45.

Future meetings: December 3, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, all at 2:45.