

**MARINE DRIVE ACADEMY**  
**School Advisory Council**  
**Minutes May 6 2025**

**Present:** Jeannie Hubley, Savanna Munroe, Samantha Bateman, Brooklyn Mace, Alanna Gammon (chair), Kelsi Henley, Courtney Cameron, Vicky Rutledge, Aaron Verge (Principal), Jodi Taker, Kerri Chartrand

**Regrets:** Judith Graham, Amanda Smith

**Called to order at 4:08 PM**

**School Supplies:** In coming school year we hope to provide Primary to 6 students with coloured pencils, scribblers, pencils and markers as over 20% of students arrive at school in September with no supplies. This would cost \$1600 and prices are best on Amazon. Aaron will meet with elementary teachers to see if additional supplies are needed. Discussion related to agendas: Are agendas feasible? Approximately 25% of families made use of the agendas; is this enough to justify a cost? Determined that Aaron Verge will price out agendas. Kelsi Henley noted that they were previously cancelled because they were a costly expense. Over 20% of students start the school year with no pencils / pens.

Vicky Rutledge motioned to allot \$2500 on supplies with advice from elementary teachers. Courtney Cameron seconded. Agreed.

**Lice kits:** Discussion regarding the allocation for funds for lice kits; we could get 10 lice kits for \$200 or 20 lice kits for \$400. Discussion related to potential for checking with Public Health about training volunteers for lice checking. Mr. Verge says this would not be a feasible plan because too many confidentiality and volunteer issues are presented. Vicky Rutledge suggested she will research to see if there is another provincial policy, or policy within the school system, relating to lice management.

Brooklyn Mace motioned to allot \$400 for 20 lice kits. Seconded by Kelsi Henley.

**Staffing:** Staffing received: increase of .8% of a teacher. With allocation, another additional teacher is available for hire in Junior High. This means that we may not need to combine grade 7/8s; there can be a grade 7 English, grade 7 French, and grade 8 English, grade 8 French. A number of staff received permanent contracts and plan to stay; five are terms and intend to stay. Notice of assignment is due May 7 which tells teachers their allocations for next year.

**SAC Reports:** SAC report will be forwarded to everyone for input.

**Kiln installation:** There are codes for installation and paperwork for high level of security. Considering Mr. Glawson's room and upstairs. Kiln is being provided by Halifax Regional Arts.

Will determine if it is available for community rental. Teachers will be trained on use of kiln. Kiln ties into both art and production curriculum.

**Sports:** Male and female softball has begun as well as Junior Grades 6-8 team. 1 female is playing on the male softball team so the Girls team will lose her. This will allow students to travel and participate in games. Track & Field districts are Friday May 9 and Jacob Owen is a Provincial hopeful in a team of 15 students.

**Reading, Writing, Math 8 & 10:** Grade 8s testing are in June, 10s testing in May; takes place over 4 mornings (2 for language arts, 2 for math). Students are fed breakfast and provided a good start. It is important for us to see how our students are doing and how we can make changes to tailor to their needs. Testing is selected by the Province.

**Field Day:** Community-based learning students will be planning field day; began talking about it last Thursday. Mr. Verge suggested a large Bouncy Castle rental as we did last year and it was a big hit. Students have requested again for this year. Considering a 100 foot long inflatable obstacle course and obstacle GO Karts. There is some funding from a health promotion grant available to the school and some further funding may be needed; Samantha Bateman motions SAC contributes \$1500 to this field day event. May be able to offer ice cream, freezies and a snack for the students. A date will be chosen but cannot be after the 17th of June as Nova Scotia virtual exams are on June 17.

**Prom:** Scheduled for Tuesday June 24 2025 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Tickets were sold for prom fundraising and approximately \$700 was raised. Jacob Owen made pens as a means of fundraising and will donate extra funds to prom. Students have been meeting Tuesdays and making decorations. The theme is "Casino"; they are not allowed to allude to smoking or drinking. Students cannot actually gamble but can have Casino-themed props. Invitations need to be printed.

**Graduation:** June 27 9:30 AM. Guest speaker is Kelsi Henley. \$500 is available for graduation reception food and Tara will do finger sweets, coffee, tea, fruit. Community members are welcome to contribute snacks and cupcakes etc. Gowns have been ordered. Considering allocating SAC funds for gown purchases in 2025/2026 year.

**Year-end dance:** May 22 will be a year-end dance for elementary students. Is there a way to encourage more student participation?

**Pre-Primary Open House:** Successful open house time for children to play and families to meet.

**Cooking Club:** Cooking club led by Darlene has been successful and creative. Grade 10s are primarily the group that has been participating. Grants have been approved for gardens to create 'edible gardens'. Becoming a school-wide endeavour by connecting with Bateman 4/5 and Boutilier 3/4 class.

**Salmon Smelts:** Grade ¾ class is raising salmon smelts which will be released soon.

**All Other Business:** Excessive garbage from Marmalade to school. Students have been mistreating the property just off the school with a trailer, and police have been contacted.

**Provincial Code of Conduct:** Slightly expanded from previous Code of Conduct and a matrix is meant to follow soon. Our school will integrate Mik'maq teachings through the seven teachings and tie our code of conduct to Mik'maq cultural learning.

**Vaping:** Other schools have vaping detectors. We have asked for this detector called HALO.

**Daycare:** No update.

**Spring Concert:** No news, continues to be planned for June 11.

**Ms. Smith:** Date for operation is June 10 and will be out for the remainder of the year. Meant to be end of April but was bumped. No interim Vice Principal is requested / needed. SAC will prepare/send her a card.

Brooklyn Mace will design a get-well/goodluck card on Canva, Samantha will colour print it.

**Tick Removal:** Gammon Home Hardware will donate tick removers to the school office.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Most of the year was received really well. Students with anxiety disorders, diabetes and health needs are given exceptions. Grade 5 students have begun being bold with their phones and have had phones removed. Older students have had some pushback.

**Jeannie Hubley:** Today was Jeannie's final SAC meeting. Our whole team expresses many thanks for her participation and support in SAC over the years.

**Field Trips:** Many field trips are happening; are more available? What is the status of field trips? Tim Hortons camp has been successful.

**Next SAC Meeting: September 2025**

Courtney Cameron motioned for meeting to adjourn at 5:24 PM. Seconded by Alanna Gammon.