**Upper Musquodoboit Consolidated School Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes- October 9, 2024**

Meeting Summary

1. **Attendance:** Troy Smith: Principal, Craig Ashley: Vice Principal, Venus Archibald: Parent, Ellen Thomas: Teacher, Melissa Reid: Teacher, Erin Cunningham: Chair, Kyley Cole: Parent, Leanne Higgins: parent.
2. **Regrets**: Heidi Higgins, Community member.
3. **Call to order**: Troy Smith called meeting to order at 2:00pm.
4. **Meeting minutes:** Previous meeting minutes presented and approved. They will be added to the school website.
5. **Business arising from the meeting summary:** None.
6. **New Business:**

* Discussion was had regarding the executive SAC members. Erin Cunningham agreed to serve for another year as Chair. Leanne Higgins offered to continue as secretary for another year. We are still looking for another community member to join the committee. The SAC discussed who in the community might be interested in joining. A small list of names was brought up. Craig Ashey will reach out to those at the family resource center. Alica Gault (new parent) is interested in joining as well.
* The SAC by laws and Letter of Agreement were reviewed and approved by members.
* SSP Update: (how many reading at grade level): Grade three assessment results have been released to families and the school. Teachers felt they were an accurate representation of where the students are at and there are resources in place to support. There are two students in grade two who are not yet meeting reading benchmarks. Attendance is an issue, but there is still time before the end of term to demonstrate growth. In grades 4-6 three students are not meeting reading benchmarks. There are two new students that are meeting in reading fluidly, but not in their comprehension. Currently, there are a total of seven students not yet meeting reading benchmarks.
* SSS report: Troy shared the results from the Student Success Survey taken by students in grades 4-6. There were some very positive results showing that students are feeling supported by their peers as well as staff at the school. It was a small group, but feedback was encouraging. Some students reported feeling not interested or “bored” with learning materials. Staff will continue to attempt to create more engaging lessons for their students.
* Discussion we had regarding school clothing. PMG Spirit Online clothing is a company that offer school clothing services. They will help create a modern logo to be approved by school. This does not cost the school anything. They have reasonable prices and will provide a link we can post on our website. Troy will contact to begin process.

1. **Principal’s Report:**

* Troy reported that the new restrictions on cell phone use have created no issues at UMCS. Staff members have had their phones put away as much as possible to model this for students. Cell phones continue to be allowed on buses.
* Troy attended the provincial SAC meeting on Sept 27th representing both Middle and Upper schools and presented a report based on the day. Going forward this is going to be an annual thing.
* The school window and electrical updates announced in the spring have yet to begin or been scheduled. This is likely to take place closer to 2026 as a capital project.
* Staffing is currently at a full complement including psychologists and librarian.
* Currently Mrs. Thomas is teaching the P-3 class full time and Mrs. Reid is covering 50% ESLT and 50% resource. So far this has been working well for everyone.
* The school has a new website! All schools now have the same website tailored better for families to use. SAC meeting minutes and calendars will be uploaded to site.
* The province wide lunch program will begin on October 28th. Families can sign up on October 18th and the window opens for the two-week menu, closing on the 23rd. Reminders will be sent out to families to order. Meals will be culturally inclusive with veggie and/or fruit every day. After the ordering window is closed, you cannot order any more lunches until the following period. Scarlett House will be catering our lunches. They run out of Burnside and will be delivered every day. Families are asked to pay what they are able to afford, but it is noted that the school cannot tell how much each family chooses to pay.
* The new Gaga pit built for us by the fire department was very well received by kids. One pit may not be enough as lots of kids each day want to use it. We will look into possibly building a second Gaga pit.
* The Terry fox run was a success. We will look into planning an ice cream social as a reward for the kids.
* Our new pre-primary class is going very well with staff flexible to support where there is need.

Upcoming events/dates:

* This Friday, October 11, is a PD day for teachers. Thanksgiving is on Monday as well.
* October 18th we will welcome Dave Carroll, author and performer for a reading of his book “Tom the Tomato Plant”.
* Floride forms are due on Oct 28th.
* October 31st is Halloween. Kids can wear their costumes to school this day. (No masks or weapons).
* October 9th (today) is picture day.
* November 8th at 9:00am we will have our Remembrance Day service. Families are welcome to attend.
* December 2nd report cards will go out. Report cards from teachers are due the 25th of November.
* Parent teacher will take place on December 5th at 1pm-3pm and 5pm-7pm. Parents can call the school to book a time slot to see their child’s teacher.
* December 16th will be the date for the Christmas concert.
* December 18th will be our annual turkey dinner with a storm day being December 19th. We plan to have the Bazzar the same day after dinner.
* December 20th will be the last day of school before Christmas break.
* Staff members will return to school January 2nd and students return on January 3rd.

1. **SAC funding:**

* Current SAC budget balance is $6406.21. The school has not received its 5000$ plus 1$ per student yet this year. Discussion was had as to how we will spend these funds to improve literacy, numeracy and student wellbeing.

1. **Other Business:**

* None.

1. **Next meeting/Adjournment:**

* Next Meeting will be held November 20thth, 2024 at 2:00pm.