**Upper Musquodoboit Consolidated School Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes- Nov 20, 2024**

Meeting Summary

1. **Attendance:** Troy Smith: Principal, Craig Ashley: Vice Principal, Melissa Reid: Teacher, Susan Hartling, Teacher, Erin Cunningham: Chair, Leanne Higgins: Parent, Kyley Cole: Parent.
2. **Regrets**: Heidi Higgins: Community member, Venus Archibald: Parent, Ellen Thomas: Teacher.
3. **Call to order**: Troy Smith called meeting to order: 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:**
* It was previously discussed that UMCS would host an ice cream social event for all students as a reward for the great work they did meeting their Terry Fox run goals. It has been decided that instead, Troy will get them an ice cream treat from Georges as a reward and save the ice cream social funds until the spring fling or incorporate it into our open house to hopefully draw in more of a crowd.
1. **New Business:**
* We would like to welcome Susan Hartling who will be filling in for Ms. McBain for the remainder of the year while she is off.
* Jeanette Higgins has agreed to fill the position of community member on the SAC. Thank you, Jeanette!
* The annual Christmas dinner that is put on by the SAC and community members each year will not be able to take place this year due to having a tendered contract with the company that provides lunches to the students each day. Instead of this, the SAC has made a change of plans and will put on a “Jingle Bell Breakfast” on December 18th at 9:00am. Erin will look after purchasing supplies for pancakes, sausage, French toast, fruit and milk. After the break we will set up and host the bazaar in the afternoon. There are some items for the Bazaar in already but if anyone has any more items, they can bring them in. We are also looking for Christmas bags of all sizes to reduce the amount of wrapping the adults must do, as last year it was very time-consuming. Erin has spoken to some parents and has arranged to have people in to help with both the breakfast and the Bazaar.
* UMCS has received a 250$ Autism grant. A decision will need to be made as to where funds should be spent. Mrs. Reid will oversee these purchases.
* Ellen Thomas is requesting funds to purchase Fountas and Pinnell Phonics books Level 1 set 2 and 3. The Sac approved this spending.
* Erin proposed purchasing the kids new crazy carpet sleds to aid in wellbeing, as sledding seems to be a preferred activity during recess break and lunch break and the old ones are getting worn out. This purchase was approved.
* **Upcoming dates**: Parent teacher will be held on Dec 5th. Parents can call the main office to book a time to meet with their child’s teacher. All specialist teachers will be here including French, Music and Phys ed. Guidance will not be here.
* Dec 16th-20th will be theme days.
* We have not heard of a retake picture day taking place yet. It might take place in the spring.
1. **Principal’s report:**
* Financial report: There has been no spending of funds this year as of date. $6,406.21 is remaining and we will receive the allotted 5000$ plus 39$ for 39 students.
* The maintenance supervisor was here to complete a hazard inspection. The driveway was identified as a hazard. There was gravel added to the driveway, but it could still use another few loads. There are also no curtains on the windows on the crush area. HRCE is coming on Tuesday to measure for new curtains.
* SSP is ending the first cycle. The goals are the same as last year. There have been noted improvements in math, but no appreciable improvement in literacy/writing goals. The focus will stay the same next cycle. We reviewed the provincial data from last year’s Grade 3 Assessment and UMCS is on par with other schools for number of students.
* Mr. Ashley provided an update and led discussion on the grade three assessments that were completed. He provided helpful visual aids to explain our children’s results were in comparison to other schools in the province.
* Troy relayed that the new code of conduct is on track to be out early in the new year.
* Lunch program update: There have been some hiccups, but overall has been successful. They seem to have solved most of the issues. Meals are coming at a reasonable time and are now packed in cooler so warm food is staying warm. There has been quite a bit of waste during this time. Some kids are not eating their meals, and they cannot take them home. They will be providing families with a yearly calendar for ordering dates.
* The fire department has agreed to build us another Gaga ball pit. Our current one is being used by too many kids at one time. The plan will be to have one for the older students and one for the younger students. Our hope is to have turf put in the bottom of the new one as well as the one they have just built to give it a better surface.
1. **Next meeting/Adjournment:**
* Next meeting will take place January 29th, 2025.