**Upper Musquodoboit Consolidated School Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes- Jan 20, 2025**

Meeting Summary

1. **Attendance:** Troy Smith: Principal, Craig Ashley: Vice Principal, Melissa Reid: Teacher, Erin Cunningham: Chair, Leanne Higgins: Parent, Kyley Cole: Parent, Jeanette Higgins: Community member, Ellen Thomas: Teacher, Venus Archibald: Parent
2. **Regrets**: Heidi Higgins: Community member.
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:**
* The Christmas Jingle bell breakfast was a big hit. It required less work to prepare and there was less waste. It worked out very well to have the Bazaar following the breakfast as it gave students and staff more time to participate and then clean up. Going forward the SAC agreed that we will have this event annually. Thank you to Erin for heading this up as well as the volunteers that helped with both the breakfast and Bazaar.
* Ellen Thomas is still looking into purchasing Phonics kits but looking to source individually as there are only certain books in the kits that she requires. She will continue to look into this and provide the SAC with a list and price of books before ordering. Melissa Reid would like to use some funds to purchase more levelled books to provide students with more variety.
1. **New Business:**
* Welcome Jeanette Higgins, our new SAC community member.
* Correspondence: Troy will be sending the SAC members a link for the workshops from the EECD SAC website.
* Different ideas for field trips were explored. Both full school trips as well as individual class options were explored. Busing is typically a higher cost than the activity. SAC members discussed the possibility of using cars and having teachers and volunteers do the transportation. Troy explained the barriers and policies that might make this difficult. We explored other closer locations such as Brookfield, Pictou or Truro. Troy also reminded the members that all field trip activities must be accessible for all students.
* Troy is going to investigate if we can use some SAC funds to build something to provide shade on the playground. The outdoor seating area needs some work as well and seats replaced.
* Ellen Thomas inquired about purchasing seed kits for the tower garden that was purchased last year with the Healthy School Community grant. Discussions took place surrounding what area to set it up in and how we will acquire water for them. Troy let us know that there were large bottles of water donated to the school by the Golden Valley Market that he could bring from MVCE for this purpose.
* Craig Ashley and Mrs. Leadbeater applied for an Indigo grant to support the library by purchasing new books. He will update the SAC if we do receive it.
* The SAC has agreed to move all meeting dates to Mondays as they would coincide with the Lego club afterschool program. This will keep some of the SAC members’ children busy and supervised during meetings.
* **Upcoming dates**:
* February is registration month. Any children in the area that will turn 4 years old for Pre Primary, and 5 years old for Primary, if not in PP, before December 31st are welcome to attend and encouraged to register this month as it will be integral in staffing decisions for the 2025-2026 school year. SAC members will reach out to anyone they know in the area that may be thinking of enrolling their child in Pre Primary. We know now that there are at least three children coming in September.
* The Pre Primary literacy breakfast will be taking place next week.
* On February 5th the “Domino Man” Bill Oakie will be coming to do a domino display for the kids. This will take place in the crush area. He will be here at 7:00am to start setting up. The tumble will take place at 12:30pm and take about nine minutes. Afterwards the kids can help clean up. The weather date will be February 12th.
* February 17th is Heritage Day. There will be no classes.
* March 3rd to 6th will be spirit week. Daily themes to be announced.
* March 7th is assessment day. No classes
* March 27th report cards go home.
* April 3rd will be parent teacher conference.
* Spring fling is taking place on May 30th.
1. **Principal’s report:**
* Financial report: We received our allotted $5000.00 plus $1 per student SAC funding. There is roughly $11,000 in the account currently. Ideas were discussed as to what things it could be spent on that would promote literacy, numeracy and wellbeing.
* We are in the middle of this SSP cycle and collecting reading data. In P-2, out of 10 students, 3 are not meeting goals. In March Craig will have a power point to present findings to the SAC.
* Troy confirmed that the new HRCE code of conduct will be out in March. He does not know what it will look like but anticipates more progressive options for discipline.
1. **Next meeting/Adjournment:**
* Next meeting will take place March 3, 2025.