**Upper Musquodoboit Consolidated School Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes- February 20, 2024**

Meeting Summary

1. **Attendance:** Troy Smith: Principal, Venus Archibald: Parent, Ellen Thomas: Teacher, Melissa Reid: Teacher, Leah MacBain: Teacher. Erin Cunningham, Chair, Kyley Cole: Parent. Margaret Dannrath: Resource Teacher.
2. **Regrets**: Leanne Higgins
3. **Call to order**: Troy Smith called meeting to order: 2:00pm.
4. **Meeting minutes:** Previous meeting minutes presented and approved. Will be added to the school website.
5. **Business arising from the meeting summary:** None.
6. **New Business:**

* The school received a $750 grant (Ellen applied for), and the school matched it and purchased an indoor hydroponics tower garden. Yearly we will need to purchase the restock kit which is less than $50.
* Dec 5- Susan Tomie sent an email thanking SAC for participating in a zoom meeting/ survey (Troy and Erin participated).
* Demographic forms: 13 out of 33 have not filled out the forms. Reminders were sent. 1st year for the forms to be done this way. Next year may be better.
* The food and nutrition survey from the Spring is now available to review.
* Nathan Schnerch is our new Guidance Counsellor. He started in January and is here on Wednesdays.
* Margaret Dannrath is our new Resource teacher. She also started since Christmas and is here alternating days each week. Margaret mentioned she has a teacher friend who does African Drumming for schools; she is going to reach out and see about his cost and availability.
* We have several students who have missed in the range of 25-30 days so far this year (which considering we just celebrated out 100th day today, is very high.) Troy asked the teachers if they thought letters home may help support families, or at least find out what the barriers are for kids not being in school.
* Reading Data:
* Primary : 3 out of 4 at grade level
* Grade 1: 2 out of 3 at grade level.
* Grade 2: 1 out of 2 at grade level.
* Grade 3: 1 out of 5 (though one is very close to grade level.)
* We discussed the need to have these children reading to get them to grade level, as always literacy is a huge focus.

1. **SAC funding:**

* There is $8909.65 in the SAC budget as of the end of January.
* Dec 1 - an email sent to SAC regarding a $10,000 innovation grant. Application for 2024-2025 year is available. The deadline is April 18/24. Ideas were tossed around to go towards a playground spruce up or to make additions to the outdoor classroom. Perhaps a possible sunshade for students as when weather is warm there’s no shade to get out of the sun.
* We talked about buying some new crazy carpets for outside (wellbeing), and chalk stencil kits. Kids need more activities and things to do outside.
* Teacher requests for SAC to purchase:

Mrs. Reid: books for Pr./1/2 classroom library to support literacy.

Ms. MacBain: classroom library books, and some new flex seating for classroom

Ms. Thomas: teaching books to support math and writing in her classroom.

* The teachers were asking about possibly purchasing Mimio kits (turns a whiteboard into a smartboard.) Troy is going to reach out to Marine Drive as they possibly have some unused ones, we may be able to access.

1. **Other Business:**

* March break is March 11-15 (with March 18th being an Assessment and Evaluation day right after).
* We will be planning a Spirit Week for the week directly before March Break.
* Report cards will go out March 26th.
* April 8th is the EPA allocation review for schools.
* Upcoming trip dates for the Spring:
  + May 14th @ Bicentennial Theatre for morning showing of MRHS Mean Girls.
  + May 17th @ MVEC for show by Young Neptune.

1. **Next meeting/Adjournment:**

* Next Meeting will be held March 26th, 2024, at 2:00pm.