

John MacNeil Elementary
School Advisory Council

Chairperson:
c/o John MacNeil Elementary
62 Leaman Dr
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 2K9

Meeting on October 21st, 2025, at 3:00pm

AGENDA

- **Welcome and review of SAC Agreement.**
- *The team received the new annual agreement and each received a copy. We reviewed the document as a group.*
- **Vote for new Chair position.**
- *The SAC voted for both a new Chairperson as well as a secretary. Our two new parent members to the SAC both volunteered for these positions right away. Ewi Poblete will be the new SAC Chair, and Minakshi Varma will be our new secretary for taking*
- *meeting minutes and keeping the meeting on track. Lenufer Yeasmin will return this year as our community member.*
- **JMES Fall 2025 –**
 - a) **Enrollment**
 - Current number of students is 286.
 - Most classes are at or just under hard cap. None over yet.
 - The old portable is housing grade 4 Warren, the new portable is housing Grade 5 Ormonde.
 - Continued growth is on our minds and the minds of HRCE
 - b) **Changes** – our pre-primary classrooms are currently very busy with students with many diverse needs. After consultation with HRCE and the EECD we are adjusting the building to accommodate by having our music teacher travel to classrooms and turning the music room into a 3rd pre-primary room.
*This information has not been released to the school community, and we ask members refrain from sharing until finalized details have been made. The intended date for the opening will be November 3rd with communication to families before this date.
- *As an SAC we chatted about the new plan for pre-primary and explained the dynamic of moving the music program to a cart-based program. This fitted very nicely into the prior discussion about enrolment and some of the pressures space in our building currently. The team is up to date on the tentative plan, but we asked everyone to keep it quiet until we have all the details and can announce this to the community appropriately.*

a) Staffing

- All staffed up with a new Librarian starting last week. We will be looking at more staffing for Pre-primary.
- Staff Attendance has been great so far.
- *The SAC chatted about the new librarian hired and how well that has worked out to date. We also discussed two positions that will need to be filled mid year in grade 2 and Phys-ed., and our current pre-primary team as well as potential additions for the third PP room.*

b) Attendance

- Lates continue to be a challenge. Staff have been encouraging families to prioritize getting kiddos here.

c) Student Success Planning – we have established the goals in Literacy, Math and Well Being.

- *The SAC chatted about our student success plan and reviewed the current goals for term #1 for Math, Literacy, and Well-Being. We agreed to continue to revisit our progress as we meet throughout the school year.*

- **Operations** – Fire inspector was in with a few things we had to adjust to meet Fire requirements.
- *We chatted about some of the small adjustments that we needed to make inside the school based on the Fire inspector's report. Staff were great to support the process, and luckily, we were mostly in compliance with regulations.*
- **Finances:**
 - a) Purchases: One request from our ELST teachers
- *The SAC discussed a proposal for funds to be used to support the school reading program. There are a series of books that the primary classes are looking for to support early reading skills. These books are designed to help beginning readers to build their confidence. There is currently a gap in the grade primary classroom libraries, and the series requested will help to support this. The SAC agreed that the school would fund these purchases at a total of \$1890.00*
- **Other:**

- *We had some discussion regarding some of the HRCE and provincial policies, artificial Intelligence implementation, student well-being and achievement, and the newcomer centre in Halifax.*
- *The SAC will receive our new behaviour support matrix and a copy of our value statements, as well as a copy of the meeting minutes.*
- *We also had a good discussion about the current state of our playground. Multiple members of the SAC thought it worth exploring further and offered to reach out to our MLA and local counsellor.*

NEXT MEETING

- *The next meeting date will be November 25th (Tuesday).*