

John MacNeil Elementary
School Advisory Council

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

Minutes for Meeting on January 25th, 2024 at 3:00pm

PRESENT

Robyne Gorman, Megan Douglas, Keanya Miller, Neil Daigle, Melissa Mackenzie, Elizabeth MacPherson, Neil Finley. Meeting took place in the Learning Centre

REGRETS

Diana Quinn

ABSENT

Velda Colley, Lenufer Yeasmin

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Principal Report
 - a) Enrollment
 - Went from 260 to 280 students in a month
 - We have all classes over soft cap, some of them significantly over cap.
 - b) Attendance
 - It's become a serious problem.
 - 106 students have missed 10% of the school year so far. That means more than 8 days
 - 37 students have missed 10% of the school year all together. That percentage will grow as we still have 5 months to go.
 - Lates have grown a lot since Sept.
 - Sept 241
 - Oct. 410
 - Nov. 434
 - Dec. 395
 - Jan. 557
 - c) Staffing
 - We've lost and gained an EPA
 - New Library Support Specialist
 - Jessalyn will be going on Maternity leave after March Break so we have Morgan taking over for her.

- d) Coaching & Art Specialist
 - We've had Math and Literacy Coaches in which have been great.
 - We were challenged to come up with new ways for coaching. Started doing weekly sessions and everyone loves it.
 - We've had Mr. Church in doing art with the students. Always a big hit.
- e) Pre Service Teachers
 - We had 4 to start the year but 1 just moved to Portland Estates.
 - They are doing a great job with our students
- f) RWM6 results
 - Was going to share but decided to wait until we share with the parents first.

3. Operations

- a) Winter Clearance
 - Its going well, getting done quickly.
 - They are clearing the path by the Jupiter now
- b) Portable
 - Looks great with the new furniture
 - Teachers and students love it.
- c) Ventilation
 - New filters were put in.
 - Old ones were so disgusting.
- d) Rentals
 - We have 4 rentals now going on over 4 days

4. Finances

- a) SAC finances
 - We received our amount for this year of \$5263.00
 - Looking at getting 2 decodable book sets which cost \$1200 each
- b) Healthy Schools Grant
 - Put in a bulk order for Phys Ed.
 - Really needed supplies as we only had 3 basketballs.
- c) Breakfast Program
 - Not sure of exact money spent so far, roughly 10,000.
 - The last email said we hadn't spent any money yet.
- d) Additional Grants
 - We received a proposal from the Province for a salad bar for 2 days a week at lunch
 - We have to hire someone to put the salad bar together each day. Food come pre packaged direct from the farmers and they just have to cut up and place in containers
 - They wanted us to charge \$4 a meal but we said we wanted it for free. We could ask for donations from businesses to buy lunches for so many kids a month.

5. Updates

- a) Monthly Assemblies are going great, behaviors are great.
- b) Family Literacy week is Jan. 23-27. Teachers are choosing how to celebrate in their classrooms
- c) Basketball has started again. Kids are so excited.
- d) African Heritage Month is next month & History Challenge will be happening again. So teachers have already started to work on projects and we are hoping to win again this year.
- e) Mother Language Day is Feb. 21st. We will be having an assembly where students will speak in their mother languages. We also need to update our flags in the gym.
- f) The Holiday concert went well.
- g) The Remembrance Day Assembly went very well. Our guest that we had from the Legion were very impressed. Thanks to Elizabeth for laying the school wreath at Sullivans Pond.
- h) We were able to give Holiday help to 33 families this year. There were more than 1 student in each family, so it equaled to about 70-75 students helped. We still have money left over to use at EID.

NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting will be on March 6th

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:48pm.

Approved: _____
Diana Quinn, Chair

Date: _____