

**Eric Graves Memorial Junior High
Student Advisory Council - Meeting Minutes
November 26th, 2024**

Meeting Time: 5:30PM

Members Present: D. MacDougall, J. Ross, E. Jay, S. Jay, D. Rowlings, A. Constable, D. Taylor, B. Parsons, E. Hendry, J. Bruce

Absent: H. Mckay

Standing Business

- **Paved Area (back of building facing field):**
 - It was reported that an HRCE Operations Representative, Mark Cottell, dropped by to say that the paving company would be in to pave between the two catch basins on December 5th. He said that he would keep J. Ross updated if that date changed.

Principal's Report:

SAC Funds

- Currently there is \$3876.33 in the SAC account. We will receive this year's allotment before the end of November of \$5000 plus \$1 for every student.
- Request to spend approximately \$1500 on folding tables for whole school events. We inquired about renting them from MacFarland's and it was \$1200 for 1 day. We have priced them at Walmart and Canadian Tire with Walmart being the cheapest at \$49.97 plus tax for folding 6 foot tables. We would like to purchase 25 tables.
- We also inquired about acquiring the tables from Gaetz Brook when they close and we will have to wait until the spring to find out if we can get them.
- J. Bruce said she would look to see how much the tables cost at Costco and report back to J. Ross and D. MacDougall
- There was a member vote held and all were in favor of purchasing the tables.

SAC Provincial Conference - D. Taylor reported that the focus of the provincial conference was the updated NS School Code of Conduct and the new NS School Lunch Program. They spent time reviewing, discussing and making recommendations for the NS School Code of Conduct.

Student Success Plan

- School staff members shared what we have completed and what is upcoming to support students' mental health and well-being at Eric Graves.

- Spirit Week in October was a huge success with daily activities. We also held an afternoon dance and student of the month assembly.
 - Our next spirit week will take place December 16th-20th. Our activities will include classroom door decorating contest, a whole school bingo, a whole school pancake breakfast and creating holiday cards for Northwood Manor.
 - In collaboration with SchoolsPlus we plan for staff to adopt a family and a schoolwide food drive for students and staff from December 2nd - 13th. As part of this initiative, we plan to have a bake sale in order to support families in need.
 - Fresh Food Cart - huge success every Tuesday and Thursday
 - ANSSSW (Ms. Dee) - Ms. Dee is regularly meeting with students. She is supporting students academically as well as with social and emotional well-being.
 - Kitchen Brigade - Students are enjoying working with the chef every Wednesday afternoon. They have tempered chocolate and made mini baked omelettes so far. We understand that the Kitchen Brigade only supports 16 students so the school may look at applying for a grant to support cooking sessions after school so more students can learn these important life skills.
 - SchoolsPlus is supporting students with a Gender Sexuality Alliance. They have also invited the MacPhee Centre in to do an art demonstration at lunch this week.
 - Grade 7 students are going on a field trip to watch The Nutcracker performance at Alderney Landing this Friday
- Math/Literacy consultants - We continue to work on the goals related to the RWM8 results.

Tim Horton's Camp

- We had about 70 students attend with 4 parent chaperones and 7 staff chaperones. Students thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity.

Student Teachers

- We have two student teachers in the building this year. One will be with Shelene Gilmour teaching grade 7 and 8 math. The other is with Mark Haverstock teaching grade 7 and 8 English

Sports

- Both boys and girls are undefeated in Volleyball. The girls won a quarter final game yesterday and the boys played their semi-final game today. The girls will go to the semi-finals on Wednesday.
- For the first time in 4 years we have enough interest to have a girls' basketball team!
- Boys basketball has started with open practices to prepare for the season. Tryouts have not taken place yet.

School Communication

- J. Ross asked if the parent members felt communication from the school was helpful and sufficient.

- Members reported that sometimes the emails don't always come from the same address so when they go back to check specific details, they find it difficult to retrieve information.
- J. Ross and D. MacDougall offered the possibility of a school facebook page for the sole purpose of sharing information for events happening in school. The members were in favour of this.
- Members also suggested that it would be helpful to receive a weekly memo about what is happening each week on Sunday night. D. MacDougall agreed to put this together.
- Members also asked that announcements be placed on the school website more regularly.

Future SAC Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were agreed upon (Tuesdays at 5:30PM)

- January 21
- February 25
- April 22
- June 3

Future Meeting Date: January 21st, 2025 @ 5:30PM

Meeting Adjourned: 6:20

Minutes prepared by: Jill Ross