

**Eric Graves Memorial Junior High
Student Advisory Council - Meeting Minutes
November 28th, 2023**

Meeting Time: 6:00PM

Members Present: J. MacDonald, J. Ross, Jennifer Barro-Ralph, J. Bruce, E. Jay

Absent: L. Matsell

Principals Report:

- **Student Population:**

- 188 students
 - 55 grade 7's
 - 62 grade 8's
 - 71 grade 9's

- **New Staff Members:**

- Dawn MacDougall - Learning Centre
- Megan Lawson - Science & Art
- David Waugh - Citizenship & Healthy Living
- Raymond Sheppard - ANS Student Support
- Joanna Kavanagh - Administrative Assistant

- **School News:**

- Grade 7 students went on a field trip to Noggins Farm in Wolfville
- Grade 8 students went on a field trip to Citadel Hill and the Halifax Library
- Grade 9 students went on a field trip to Hatfield Farm
- Mr. Sheppard is organizing a field trip to the Black Cultural Centre for December 13th for students of African Descent
- Student of the Month Assembly - we continue to have our student of the month assemblies to celebrate those students who are making a positive contribution to EGMJH. These assemblies are organized by the grade 9 leadership group.
- Spirit Week - We held a spirit week in October where there were lunch time activities and one afternoon dance & canteen. Grade 9 leadership organized, promoted and ran the events.
- BINGO - Ms. MacDougall organized a school wide BINGO game. She collected donations from local businesses and organizations. Teachers also made

donations for prizes. Students received 2 free BINGO cards but could also purchase more tickets if they wanted. Grade 9 leadership ran a canteen during the BINGO game as well. The money raised will go toward further activities for students to enjoy.

- So far this year we have had a soccer team, a girls' and boys' volleyball team, and we are beginning tryouts for a boys' basketball team now. There was not enough interest to form a girls' basketball team so the phys. Ed teacher has offered girls' open gym on Fridays at lunch to practice basketball with the help of a community member coach.
- **Provincial Assessment Results:**
 - **Math:**
 - Grade 8 scored just below 80% which was 20% higher than results pre-COVID.
 - **English Language Arts:**
 - Grade 8 scored at 63% in reading. The HRCE average was 68.5%
 - Grade 8 scored at 50% in writing. The HRCE average was 68.6%
 - **Current Focus:** collecting data from grade 7 students in order to plan and prepare them for the grade 8 provincial assessments.

New Business:

- **December 4th Professional Development:** This session will focus on setting goals and planning for our second cycle for this school year. The learning centre teacher, Ms. MacDougall created a wellness survey for all students to complete. We will be reviewing the results of this survey and using this data to plan specific strategies and activities to support student well-being.
- **SAC Funds:**
 - There is just under \$16000.00 in the SAC fund
 - Mr. MacDonald asked for permission to purchase 5 horseshoe tables and 5 clover leaf shaped tables for classrooms to have alternative forms of seating. There were not enough people present to vote so Mr. MacDonald planned to send an email to all members about the tables.

- Mr. MacDonald also suggested that we purchase interactive whiteboards because there are currently none in our school.
- **Outdoor Flags:**
 - The school has purchased flags that we will have hung on poles outside over the main entrance to the school. These flags include a Nova Scotia flag, an African Nova Scotian flag, an Indigenous flag as well as an LGBTQI+. We are waiting for maintenance to hang them.
- **Student Washrooms:**
 - There has been a drastic decrease in vandalism in the school washrooms this year. One reason may be that we have designated the downstairs washrooms to grade 9 students only. The upstairs washrooms are for grade 7 and 8 students only.
 - Jill Bruce said that she heard that students are vaping in the bathrooms. We explained that we have suspended 2 students for vaping in the bathroom to date and that we continue to monitor the washrooms. It was discussed by all members that the serious side effects and health issues related to vaping should be covered in healthy living classes.

Future Meeting Date: January 9th, 2024 at 6PM

Meeting Adjourned: 7:00PM

Minutes prepared by: Jill Ross