

**SAC MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Halifax Central Junior High School**  
**Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 6pm**

1. **Attendance (via zoom):** Valerie Meers (Principal), Erica Phillips (Vice Principal), Clare Bilek (Chair), Kelly Bower (Vice Chair), Pheilm Martin (Staff Rep), Denise Smith (Staff Rep), Jennie Colburn (Secretary), Lorelei Burgess (Community Rep), Jeanine Meade (parent), Peggy Brown (parent), Michelle L. (gr. 8 rep), Oula M. (gr. 9 rep)
2. **Approval of Agenda & Welcome:** Agenda was approved.
3. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes from November 2020 approved
4. **Principal's Report:**
  1. SAC Funds - Teachers' wish lists - can also be purchased through instructional budget
  2. Voting members (3 parents, 2 community members, and 3 staff members not including the Principal). This was established in the Fall, with the exception of having formal student reps assigned as they were on a rotating schedule for meeting attendance. Kelly Bower asked for some clarification on how votes take place, and if the language and formatting of the vote is appropriate for all voters, most especially students. Clare explained that this is all outlined in the SAC by-laws, and can be accommodated for all voters, dependent on the subject matter for each vote.
  3. Grade 10 Course Selection Process - currently under way with Guidance Counsellor
  4. African Heritage Month
    - highlighting different cultures throughout the year
    - teachers are incorporating ideas such as Amanda Gorman's poem in lessons
    - social justice literature circles
    - Black Lives Matter in an educational context (Black Students' Lives Matter in Education - resources from Otis Day, HRCE Student Equity Consultant)
  5. New Photographer in 2021-2022: Admin and many students/families were not pleased with this year's photographer (Calnen). Many were displeased with the images, and the lengthy time between photos shoots and having access to finished product. Admin are hoping to look at other options for next year.
  6. Grade 9 Closing (as discussed between admin and staff)
    - Depending on Covid restrictions at the time, possibly a special sit down dinner would be a great year end celebration for the nines - staff could be servers. A committee could plan a menu and cook with grade eight foods class. Tables could be set up in the side yard or courtyard and we could have a playlist/DJ that would allow the kids input on music. This way they would still have something special to dress up for. The closing itself would probably have to be virtual. Last year we did a nice

slideshow for the nines and all watched it over Google Meet together. Students seated in their cohorts

- We can have each group receive their certificates and either do a live stream or a recording.

#### 7. Grade 9 Entrepreneur Fair alternatives

- Students would have a chance to set up the booth in class (but how would students pay for purchases, cannot exchange money) - parents/guardians do e-transfers?
- Things travelling back and forth from home to home and then handling money wouldn't be allowed with the current restrictions. It would be great to do a "tiny show" with mini art canvases that could be sold online - the students would set up an online shop or instagram page for sales. The profits could go toward a year end celebration for the nines.
- a virtual Dragon's Den style competition
- Not sure if this is a great idea because homemade items are coming into school and then going into other homes. There is also the exchange of money, change etc. Not sure how an online store would work - who would set it up?
- The students create websites where orders can be given online, processed by the student and then delivered to the buyer's home.

#### 8. Week PD - Jan 4-8 - Ms. Meers noted how proud she was of the efforts made by the staff as a whole. And that the week was considered a huge success. A special acknowledgment was made to Erica Phillips for her efforts above and beyond providing support for the staff. As well as how much her 'lunch and learn' sessions are well attended and much appreciated by staff. Ms. Meers also mentioned that she is very confident that staff is well prepared should we need to transition to scenario 3 of online learning.

Teachers participated in online PD that was appropriate to areas of online learning that they wanted to further their best practices such as:

- incorporating Mimio and Mimio pad
- interactive choice boards
- improve my instructional methods and strategies
- implemented more trauma informed practices
- features of Google Classroom, Jamboard, and Flipgrid
- to listen and learn from Black educators and experts in the field of Anti-racist Education
- brainstorm and share ideas about presenting and assessing unique lessons that will enhance engagement
- learned how to use Kahoot and Jamboard
- an opportunity to collaborate and learn from one another
- to travel down roads we might not have been so familiar with together as a team
- more adept at Google classroom video lessons
- online Science labs

5. **Staff Report:** no news to report at this time from the staff as a whole. Admin wanted to thank Mr. Martin for his efforts towards a few new initiatives in the school, including debate club and an online art contest. As well, the grade 9 'art on the walls' projects have been really well received. Ms. Phillips is going to share the art via Twitter once completed.

6. **Student's Report:**

Oula - asked if students would be able to participate in the committee for grade 9 grad, to which the answer was yes.

Michelle asked that students be given time to clean out their bins on a regular (monthly) basis.

A follow up to a request from Ido at the last meeting with regards to outdoor time for those students who participate in the lunch program. There is now a new lunch monitor who makes a concerted effort to get the students out for atleast 15 mins during every lunch break.

7. **New Business:**

(a) Consideration of Ventilation Letter: A lengthy discussion ended with the group feeling like a formal letter to appropriate HRCE and Government officials was unnecessary at this time. Our SAC feels very informed (thanks to our admin) and are looking forward to hearing back from admin ASAP with regards to what our options might be, should we decide to purchase air purifiers for all classrooms. Ms. Meers is going to contact her supervisor this week to inquire about getting information (air quality reports) as well as pricing of purifiers, upkeep pricing, and what our options might be, specific to our schools needs.

(b) Grade 9 Events Parent Support-the current parent group feels strongly that it is now time to reach out to the larger parent community. Ms. Meers is also going to reach out to form a more structured group of staff willing to help out with an anticipated event. A survey has been created and Ms. Meers is going to circulate that to grade 9 families as a next step.

(c) SAC Grant Follow Up: a few options were discussed, including paying for air purifiers and CO2 monitors; hiring a substitute teacher so that staff could take smaller groups of students and work in focus groups

8. **Next meeting:** if Ms. Meers is able to acquire enough information about purchasing air purifiers that the group needs to reconvene before our usual monthly meet, we may meet again towards the end of January.

Formally, our next meeting will be: February, 2021, 6pm (via zoom)

9. **Adjournment:** 7:38pm