

SAC MEETING SUMMARY
Halifax Central Junior High School
Wednesday, February 24th, 2021 6pm

1. **Attendance (via zoom)**: Valerie Meers (Principal), Erica Phillips (Vice Principal), Clare Bilek (Chair), Kelly Bower (Vice Chair), Pheilm Martin (Staff Rep), Jennie Colburn (Secretary), Lorelei Burgess (Community Rep), Janine Meade (parent), Peggy Brown (parent), Musa G & Ido R. (Gr. 7 reps), Michelle L. (Gr. 8 rep), Alasdair B. (Gr. 9 rep) ; Regrets: Denise Smith (Staff Rep)

2. **Approval of Agenda**: Agenda was approved.

3. **Approval of minutes**: Minutes from January 2021 approved; Minutes from all meetings are now posted on the school website

4. **Principal's Report**:

Student Success Plan (SSP):
See attached DRAFT document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Spa613k0dbkGzqOqEgWGGQ5Yoj8esw-j0UIZiiFK9Okc/edit>

Ms. Meers explained that the SSP plan is for the school community as a whole, and that students would still be individually assessed beyond the parameters of this plan. She also explained that this document is reviewed on a regular basis and is updated according to the outcomes of these reviews.

It was also noted, from the HRCE website,, that the Province has tentative plans to do provincial assessments for Grade 8's (and grade 3's) in May 2021.

An ask of how we can have more STEM opportunities available in the school was met with a response to follow up with Ms. Shoveller.

Questions about the HRCE homework policy can be answered at the following link:

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/homeworkpolicy.pdf>

a) Correspondence from Cathy Montreuil, Deputy Minister of Education, February 17, 2021:

Ventilation (opening of windows)

All ventilation systems in all schools were checked prior to the start of school. They are being checked again this month and will have another check before the end of the school year. Results of those checks are posted on HRCE website (under "News" and then "HRCE Ventilation Reporting Summary").

For schools with passive ventilation systems, the public health advice continues to be to open windows when possible. The appropriate time to do that can be determined by the teacher. There is no expectation for windows to be open when outdoor conditions will impact comfort in the classroom.

b) End of Year and Looking to 2021-22

Education leaders continue to engage in conversations with Public Health about graduation and moving ahead ceremonies. We understand the important role these ceremonies play in the lives of staff and students as a rite of passage. We know that schools need to plan ahead, so we hope to have some guidance on this soon.

Planning for next school year will be coming soon. While it is difficult to predict the future during a pandemic, we will continue our conversations with the Learning Continuity Table and Public Health. We will continue to provide updates as they emerge.

School note: Our Grade 9 Closing committee has had one meeting already.

c) Asymptomatic Testing

The province continues to offer asymptomatic COVID-19 testing across Nova Scotia (testing for people who do not have symptoms). Public health officials are encouraging Nova Scotians to consider testing as another way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, particularly if they have had a large number of close contacts due to their work or social activities.

Appointments can be booked at <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca>, by choosing the asymptomatic option. Rapid testing pop-up sites continue to be set up around the province as well. More information on testing can be found at <https://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirustesting>.

d) SAC Funds - Spending Proposals:

Hire substitute teacher to cover Resource Teacher's Schedule so Ms. Madigan can review Program Adaptations individually with grade 9 students to help develop advocacy skills to set them up for success at high school (\$195 per day for 3-4 days = \$585-\$780). Parents'/Guardians' consent is obtained first.

Hire substitute teacher to cover specific teacher's classes so they can address students' learning needs who are on the cusp of their academic understanding in order to increase student success (\$195 per day for approximately 10 days = \$1950)

Buy two ovens and some miscellaneous kitchen items for our Foods Lab (approx. \$2000)

e) Building Bridges: Black Youth Empowerment:

Infinitus Academy is continuing their series titled: The Black Youth Empowerment Program. We are proud to say we have two of our amazing students participating in this program, Bishir Green in grade 9 and Musa Green in grade 7.

Session 1 took place on Feb. 19: Black Power And Politics

The theme of this session is about Power and Politics as they intersect with persons of African Descent. At every age, and in every city, individuals, communities, and organizations have and are impacted by power - the goal is to be aware of the types of power and how to leverage them!

These interactive conversations included topics such as Social Justice, What it Means to be Black, Finding Your Power, Changing the Narrative, and Using Your Voice.

Session 2 will take place on March 1: Black Business And Building Your Brand

The theme of this session is about Business and Building a Brand as it intersects with persons of African Descent. Every individual is a business and getting into the headspace around how they can begin to build themselves as young professionals and their brand intentionally.

These interactive conversations included topics such as Digital and Financial Literacy, Transferable & Leverageable Skills, Finding Your Power, Changing the Narrative, and Using Your Voice.

5. **Staff Report:** no news to report at this time

6. **Student's Report:**

Ido R - requested longer mask breaks. Suggested that 5-10mins is not long enough.

Michelle L - asked if the directives from HRCE about lockers has changed. Ms. Meers informed that it remains the same and students are not allowed to use lockers. Michelle asked again that students be given time to clean out their bins. Michelle also suggested a school scavenger hunt. Ms. Meers is going to bring that idea to staff and try to come up with an idea while keeping the students in their cohorts.

Allasdaire B - had a question about whether or not students could choose to stay inside or outside for mask breaks. Ms. Meers explained that is a safety concern as students are required to be supervised at all times. Ms. Meers offered to look in to possibly creating this opportunity more for the students, if staffing assignments allows it.

7. New Business:

a) SAC grant

All funding for academic support (listed in Principal's Report) was approved; the SAC decided to pause the purchase of new ovens for the food labs because the lab is not currently in use due to cover protocol restrictions. A re-evaluation of the need for new ovens vs. additional academic support will be made at a later date.

(b) Consideration of Correspondence re: school ventilation (presented by Clare Bilek)

The group as a whole decided to look in to getting more informed on the topic. We will re-visit the topic at the next meeting.

(c) Student Governance Training (presented by Kelly Bowers)

Kelly offered the phrase "Knowledge is Power" (Francis Bacon) as a way to introduce student government back in to the school. She would like to add this to the SAC agenda for the 2021-2022 school year, and would like to work with staff and admin to help create a student council to help the kids learn about the election process and student governance.

8. Next meeting: April 14th, 2021, 6pm via zoom

9. Adjournment: 7:06pm