

Halifax Central Junior High School
SAC Meeting Meeting Summary

November 24, 2021

6:00pm via Zoom

Meeting Chair: Kelly Bowers

1. Welcome: In attendance: Valerie Meers (Principal), Erica Phillips (Vice Principal), Kelly Bowers (Chair), Jennie Colburn (Secretary), Lorelei Burgess (community rep), Clare Bilek (parent; past-chair), Kathy Anne Rainforth (parent), Laura Brady (parent; by phone), Michelle (grade 9 rep), Elly (grade 8 rep), Jack (grade 7 rep); Regrets: Pheilm Martin (staff rep), Janine Meade (parent)

2. Approval of Agenda (Decision): Agenda approved.

3. Approval of Minutes (Information/Decision): Minutes approved.

4. Election of Vice Chair (Decision): Tabled for next meeting due to time constraints.

5. Principal's Report (Information):

a) Final Insurance Claim from leaking roof and water damage - in addition to new sections of roof also \$74 650 of new resources to our school library, ELA class, Math class, Learning Centre and Resource, Science class, Core French class, etc.

b) Banner - Coed Flag football Team Champions

c) Parent-Teacher – phone conferences (same format as last year) – Thursday, November 25 1-3pm and 5-7pm; comments were made that some teachers did not have enough time slots available to satisfy the requested need for interviews. Ms. Phillips explained that some teachers have students across all grade levels and its is simply not possible to talk with everyone over the allotted times. Folks are encouraged to contact the teachers directly if they were unable to schedule a time during the PT interviews.

d) SAC Funds – possibilities are musical instruments for new course, Explore Music, and/or equipment for Phys. Ed. Ms. Meers sent an email to staff to ask if they require anything for their programming to support student success and she will report any response to this ask at next SAC meeting.

e) January Field Trip – Ms Gillis is organizing a walking field trip to the Oval. Each grade level will have a separate afternoon there.

f) Press Release for Grade 9 artwork on banners lining Quinpool Street – see below:

--- November 24, 2021, For Immediate Release---

Quinpool Pays Homage to Many Cultures This Holiday Season

Quinpool Road has utilized the talents of a contemporary group of young designers for their new Holiday Season banners and they don't work for a graphic design company! The Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association has partnered with the students and staff at Halifax Central Junior High to create 18 new pole banners to line the bustling commercial district.

The banners were designed by the very talented students from the grade 9 citizenship class under the direction of Visual Arts Teacher, Mr. Pheilm Martin

Lorelei Burgess, owner of Oxford Learning and Quinpool Board Chair couldn't be happier. "Our association was looking for safe ways to engage and partner with the community and this project seemed like a perfect fit", says Lorelei who also sits on the School Advisory Council as a Community Member.

"One of the most exciting aspects of this initiative is that we were able to ask the students to illustrate how their families celebrate the holidays, and while it doesn't capture all cultures, it gives a representation of how the holidays are celebrated in a school that is a stone's throw away from Quinpool Road.", says Karla Nicholson, Executive Director of the Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association.

The banners showcase the different Holiday Celebrations celebrated by the students including Christmas, Ramadan Mubarak, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Omisoka and Bodhi Day, New Year's and Chinese New Year's.

"We were so honoured to be asked to create the designs for 18 of the banners that will be lining Quinpool Road this holiday season. Our grade 9 students, their families, and the school staff are thrilled to be seeing our students' artwork on these holiday banners", says School Principal Valerie Meers.

"I would like to thank, Lorelei Burgess and the Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association for this opportunity, and to our Visual Arts and Social Studies Teacher, Pheilm Martin for guiding the students throughout this very rewarding project. We wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season", she adds.

The school will be auctioning off the student's original banner artwork at a later date, and the association plans to use the banners during the Holiday season for years to come, as a way to pay homage to the many diverse cultures in our city.

A sampling of the banners can be seen at [\(20+\) Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association - Posts | Facebook](#)

For more information contact:

Karla Nicholson, Executive Director

Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association (902 209 2210) Karla@Quinpoolroad.ca

6. Staff Report (Information): Mr. Martin is looking for letters of support for a grant application for his Explore Music Program. Clare Bilek offered to write a letter.

7. Student Reports (Information):

Michelle (gr 9 rep)

- Students would like more fundraising, like bake sales. Students were encouraged to bring all ideas forward to admin.
- Students would like the wifi to be looked at again - it is very slow
- Students would like more in-school art projects
- Students have noticed that the paint is peeling significantly around the exterior of the building; Ms. Meers has put in a formal request with HRCE operations to have the envelope repaired and painted.
- Not all washrooms doors have working locks; Ms. Meers made note to let the custodian know to repair the locks

- Free breakfast program - Ms. Meers has a meeting about bringing this program back and will report back at our next SAC meeting
- Students would like a broader range of activities in gym class to suit more abilities - Ms. Meers will discuss with Ms. Gillis

Elly (gr 8 rep)

- there is concern that the \$20 for a school sports jersey is limiting to some students; Ms. Meers told the group that if anyone is limited by the \$20 fee, they can speak to any adult in the building and the fee can be handled

Jack (gr 7 rep)

-Students would like more field trips; Ms. Meers mentioned that there is a plan to have a walking field trip to the Oval in January

-Some students would like to see vending machines in the building; Ms. Meers pointed out that the school canteen is a popular alternative to vending machines, allowing students to work/volunteer and organize, and creates a positive experience in the school

8. Business Carried Forward:

a) Bell Schedule (Information)

To date, the informal sub-committee has received feedback from HRCE, but with no resolution offered to our specific requests. HRCE has explained that it is the responsibility of families to ensure their child arrives to school safely. And that HRM/HRP is responsible (pays for) crossing guard coverage. As an SAC, we are mandated to ensure that our children have a safe experience coming to and going from the school property. We have decided to formally submit a letter to the Minister of Education from the SAC. Clare Bilek will be writing the letter and we plan to submit the letter as soon as possible. We may consider asking students to sign petition of concern and attaching it to the letter. We may also look at requesting a single issue meeting in response to organizing this letter.

9. New business:

a. School Advisory Council Roles and Responsibilities (Discussion)

Time did not allow for discussion on this point, It will carry over to our next meeting.

10. Adjournment: 7:00pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 26th, 2022, 6pm via Zoom