

Halifax Central Junior High School
SAC Meeting Meeting Summary

February 22, 2023

6:00pm In-person

Meeting Chair: Kelly Bowers

1. Welcome: In attendance: Valerie Meers (Principal), Kelly Bowers (Chair), Jennie Colburn (Secretary), Lorelei Burgess (community rep), Laurianne Falkwin (community rep), student reps: Seth, Yousseff, Elise, Ellie, Scarlett,, Allie; Regrets: Heather Mackay (Vice Principal), Pheilim Martin (staff rep), Kathleen Martin (parent rep), Kieran (student rep)

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

3. Approval of Minutes (Information/Decision)and Review of Action Items: Minutes from the November and January meetings were reviewed and approved.

4. Communication and Feedback from school community (Discussion):

Kelly Bowers suggested we come up with an action plan to improve communication for the school community as whole. We talked about the disconnect between home and school that can occur when multiple emails are sent out in response to specific things, like course selection or event planning. We discussed having the school website be a better resource for both students and parents. Having updated calendars (for sports and events) and having some sort of system in place for a communication 'hub' of sorts (Q&A style) were two points raised. It was suggested that a student-lead newsletter might also be a new idea for a club for those interested. Next steps are for the student reps to ask their peers what improvements or ideas they might have. Adult members were asked to check in with parents/staff on what things they seek most when it comes to information from the school itself. We may consider surveying the school community.

5. Mental Wellness Promotion (Discussion):

As an SAC, we continue to work towards creating a more defined framework around the third of the SSP goals: well being. Specifically, we are looking to promote hope, purpose, meaning and belonging within our unique school community. We discussed different ideas for end of year celebrations, recognitions and acknowledgements. We talked about the idea of taking the focus away from academic achievement (based solely on grades), and focussing more on student success and what that might mean to the students themselves. We also talked about more inclusive ways to celebrate sports and volunteerism. Next steps will be for staff to meet with Grade 9 students to discuss their intentions and what that might look like for this specific group of students.

6. Principal's Report:

- Provincial Debate Competition was this past weekend and Mr. Martin was the facilitator for our students:

Halifax Central came in 5th out of 12 teams and just missed entry into the semifinals by one point. Our student Scarlett R. came in 5th out of 24 students. Our team is one of seven invited to the national debate championships held in Toronto in April/May. Parents are being notified by Mr. Martin and the parents will inform the school if their children intend to participate.

- Today, our School Counsellor, Ms. DeLory took 10 female students to the Dalhousie Engineering Conference. Introduce a Girl to Engineering, or Girl Day, is a time when volunteers, educators, and others act as role models, facilitate engineering activities, and show girls how engineers change our world.

- School Counsellor, each year takes interested female students who sign up:

On March 3rd, the Alexa McDonough Institute will be hosting their annual Girls Conference in 2023 in person, and the proposed theme for this year is "Girls in Action!", and they have a variety of engaging and interactive sessions targeted at **13 to 18-year-old youth** who self-identify as girls. Our keynote speaker is **Chelsey Gotell**, a former Canadian Paralympic swimmer and 12-time medalist, who now serves as a member of the International Paralympic Committee's Governing Board. The aim of this conference is to encourage creativity, critical thinking and physical activity while promoting an effective learning experience. Link for more information:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/girls-in-action-girls-conference-2023-tickets-505187418167>

- JH Intervention Teacher

Ms. Ugursal is taking 13 of our students who staff feel could use a social outlet and connection. The Power House Youth Centre, which serves as a place for youth to gather, learn, and connect with others. It is also a meeting place for Halifax Regional Council's Municipal Youth Advisory Committee. It has programs such as Youth Recreation, Youth Leadership, Youth Advocate, Adventure Earth, etc. The link for more information:

<https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/youth/youth-spaces/power-house-youth-centre>

- Chairs of SAC and Home and School (Kelly and Jacob Ritchie), Jennie, Heather McKay (Acting VP), Angela MacKay (Teacher and Facilitator of Student Leadership Committee) and I met on Feb. 10th and discussed the following:
 1. Cultural Event at school – exploratory activity for students to examine their own culture / heritage
 2. Heritage Fair that can be cross-curricular (SS, ELA, ILT, etc.) – possibly during P/T
 3. Art Gallery
 4. PAINT artists
 5. Workshops consisting of local artists
 6. STEM opportunities
 7. Volunteerism programs
 8. Visit elementary schools for grade 6 presentation on JH life and Q&A

Our Grade 8 students have two assessments coming up:

- on April 25 the PCAP, which is the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program.

In 2003, the provincial and territorial ministers of education, through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), agreed to develop the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program. This program assesses, at regular intervals, the knowledge and skills of Grade 8/Secondary II students across Canada in the core subjects of science, reading, and mathematics. In each PCAP assessment, one of the three subjects is the primary domain, while the other two are minor domains. PCAP provides an excellent opportunity to show the education community, as well as the general public, the efficacy of our education systems with regard to learning in these subject areas.

Participating in assessments like PCAP ensures that we, including parents/guardians and citizens more broadly, stay informed about how Canadian students are performing in comparison with their peers across Canada. Moreover, through the latest provincial, Pan-Canadian, and international results of this and other assessments, we can improve the teaching and learning of science, reading, and mathematics in our province.

- RWM8 typically written in May (official date will be announced) – this is the Nova Scotia Assessment in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics for grade 8 students. This assessment will provide teachers information to inform instructional planning, provide parents/guardians with information on their child's performance, and provide the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education and the school system with information to inform educational decisions.

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 7:00pm; Next meeting April 26th, 2023, 6pm in school library.

