**Herring Cove Junior High**

**School Advisory Committee Meeting**

December 12, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Via MS Teams

**Present**: Jim Curry, Brent Keough, Erica Reid, Lisa Verrall, Christina Neary, Sherisse O’Leary, Olive Taussig, Charlie Ewing

**Regrets**: Holly Lake, Nicole McKeever, Kelly O’Sullivan, Josh Chapman

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of October 23, 2024**

Informal discussion on the topics listed on the October agenda. No votes/decision were made.

1. **New Business**
   1. **Position of Chairperson**

* Tabled until next meeting
  1. **SAC Request for Funds -$3200 spent to date**
* Gym Speaker – with Microphone, for Recess/ Lunchtime open gym and gym activities **Approx. $400**
* Chess Sets for the start of a lunchtime chess club **Approx. $150**
* Cooking Club **$750**
* Audio Books for literacy support in resource **$665**
* African Dance Society Presentation **$TBD**
* Bike Rack **$TBD- spring installation**
  1. **End of year ceremonies (review)**
* Community looking for a more inclusive closing ceremony
* Completion certificates for all, in addition to awards
* Further discussion will happen throughout the year

1. **Principal’s Report:**

* New SAC member! I would like to Welcome Olive Taussig as our student representative for grade 7.
* Awards – grade 7-8, will be handed out with academic certificates before the Christmas break. Grade 6 will receive non-academic certificates.
* Parent/teacher interviews on Dec 5 were successful, good numbers in both sessions
* Construction continues – Timeline for completion given was mid-February
* Immunization clinic completed for grade 7’s on Dec 4.
* Welcome! – Brandon Bing to the teaching staff. Brandon has finished teaching at William King and will now take over as ELA/SS teacher in grade 7. Unfortunately, this means we must say goodbye to Mr. Caldwell who was filling in.
* We had another successful school dance on Nov 14. Our student numbers were a bit lower, but that is typical for that time of year.
* The girls’ volleyball team won their championship for a second year in a row – credit to the commitment of the kids and all the hard work of their coaches (Ms. Homans -parent volunteer- and Ms. Saunders – teacher volunteer-)
* Cyber Safety – our grade 7’s participated in a Cyber Safety presentation put on by Public Safety Canada Online Dangers Roadshow. Kids had a great time and were well behaved. HRP will be coming as soon as they have time to talk about cyber security with students.
* Basketball Teams– We were able to secure coaches for both teams and have started tryouts already. The season will begin shortly after the Christmas break.
* Lunchtime Clubs - We have been working to improve the lunchtime experience for our students by starting up several clubs which are free for students to participate in. Some of the clubs include Chess Club, Cooking Club, Art Club and GSA, Baby Sitting Classes and more. We are hoping to have some more options available soon. Students are also invited to use our gym and library on certain days of the week and extra help is available from many of the teachers.
* Gym Equipment – using part of our Healthy Living grant, we were able to purchase volleyball equipment as well as for our grade 6 classes to use outdoors at recess and lunchtime. Later in our meeting, I will talk about some requests for the SAC to sponsor some other equipment purchases.
* Ski Trip – We have booked another ski trip and have arranged things differently this year to avoid any controversy. We will now have a reserve fund set aside for any family that may have trouble with the fees. Also, we are going to book two buses so that we should have enough room for all grade 7 & 8 students who wish to go.
* Online Spirit Wear clothing shop went live during the last week of November. Clothing orders will be delivered to the school and distributed as they arrive.

1. **Student Report**

* Students would like to have themed dances to boost participation
* Spirit Week is planned for the last week before the holidays

1. **Other Business**

* A question was raised about whether we could have an online booking system for progress meetings so that parents can schedule themselves and reduce wait time in the gym for drop-in meetings. Mr. Curry will survey the community to see if there is interest, as it comes with a cost to the school.

1. **End of Meeting: 6:45 p.m.**