**Herring Cove Junior High**

**School Advisory Committee Meeting**

February 19, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Via MS Teams

**Present**: Jim Curry, Brent Keough, Erica Reid, Lisa Verrall, Christina Neary, Sherisse O’Leary, Nicole McKeever

**Regrets**: Josh Chapman, Olive Taussig, Kelly O’Sullivan, Charlie Ewing, Holly Lake

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2024**

Approved without changes.

1. **New Business**
   1. **Construction Update**

We don’t yet have a final timeline for the construction work, but they’re working hard around the student schedule. Some projects will be completed by the end of the March Break. Library will be mostly complete, with the exception of the flooring which will be done in the summer. Band room will be complete as well as the cafeteria, all by the end of the March Break. Lockers have been purchased but will be installed during the summer.

New projects: new bathroom renovations (tiles, sinks, mirrors etc.) will done over the summer. Ceilings in the hallways will be replaced during the summer.

* 1. **SAC Grand Money- Update**
* The money approved for Cooking Club will be returned because another grand was found to cover the costs.
* Sherisse mentioned that at JLI staff were asked to create proposals for use of SAC funds. Mr. Curry liked the idea and will add it to the staff meeting agenda for the upcoming meeting in March.
  1. **Discipline Report**
     + Mr. Keough presented the data for incidents of unacceptable behaviour. The data was divided into categories and the number of reported incidents for each category was presented, as well as the types of consequences given and the frequency of these consequences. The data presented was collected from September-February.
  2. **Coaching/Volunteering at HCJH**
* This year we were able to get volunteer coaches, but there are concerns about how there was no recognition or appreciation expressed by the students or parent community. Mr. Curry would like to know if there is anything that the SAC could suggest in order to recognize the efforts and thank the coaches who volunteered their time for these sports.
* Discussions about ideas included recognition at the end of year ceremony, certificates, school swag, having the kids sign a card etc. Other ideas include a ‘shout-out’ in the emails from Admin.

1. **Principal’s Report:**

**Sports** - Both our basketball teams have had excellent seasons. We were very fortunate to find excellent volunteer community coaches this year. I would like to thank Shane Spaargaren (boy’s coach) and Veronica Curry and Jordan MacNamara (girl’s coaches). It is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers to coach and we could not have offered these sports without these amazing people.

**Breakfast program** –We continue to see high demand for our grab and go options (fruit, granola bars, etc.). Also, we are looking into the potential of a school-wide breakfast and starting our Toasted Bagels at Break program again. Sobeys provided a $250 gift card for our program.

**Grade 7-8 Ski Trip (Martock)** – HCJH students in grades 7 & 8 on Feb 18th. Thank you to Mr. Keough for organizing this event. (POSTPONED until March 21st due to the icy, windy weather).

**School Dance** – Was to be held on Feb 6. Unfortunately, we did not sell enough tickets, so we had to cancel. Our next dance is scheduled for May 8.

**Grade 6 Late French Immersion Parent Info Session** - On Feb 4, we had an information session about our Late French Immersion program for grade 6 parents who are interested. Ms. Deroche will also be speaking to our grade 6 classes to promote choosing Late Immersion next year.

**Intensive French –** Ms. Verrall had the chance in January to go to our feeder schools and speak to the grade 5 classes about enrolling in this program. She also held a Q & A session for prospective parents on Feb 4th. By all reports the sessions went well and there was a lot of interest in the program.

**Skilled Trades** – Skills for Success presented for Gr 8’s on Monday, Feb. 3. This dynamic presentation is designed to promote the skilled trades as an option for our students. 40 of our grade 8’s will be traveling to exhibition park to participate in a hands-on session promoting the trades

**CST. O’Brien (HPD)–** will be coming in to speak about Cyber safety and proper online behaviour. This is part of the school efforts not only to try and keep our kids safe online, but also to help create good digital citizens.

**African Dance** – On Feb 21st we will be hosting ***The Maritime Centre for African Dance***, who perform EXCITING and INTERACTIVE FALL workshops & dance classes for the entire school. Students always have a tonne of fun and learn some new dance steps as well!

**Metro Transit Booth** – Metro transit came and set up a transit information booth for kids. The purpose was to promote use of the new student bus passes.

**Youth Project** – The Youth Project came in and spoke with our grade 8 HLV classes. The main topic was speaking about gender diversity and how to create a safe and inclusive space, where everyone is accepted. Our kids were fantastic and well behaved. The Youth Project speakers stuck around for lunch and attended our GSA group meeting.

**MSVU Band Trip** – Our entire band program went on their annual trip to MSVU campus to enjoy the sounds of the Stadacona Big Band. Everything went well.

1. **Student Report**

* None.

1. **Other Business**

* **Follow Up: Online Booking for Progress Conferences:** A survey will be sent home to ask parents about preferences for PT Conferences. Options will include, status quo, online appointments, open gym with timers to keep the appointments equitable for everyone.
* **Bus off the Road:** Parents inquiring about lack of communication from HRCE or Transportation about what had happened or how it was handled. A simple acknowledgement from HRCE that their kids were in an accident, would have been appreciated. Also, a general communication to the community to avoid rumors and misinformation circulating in the community.
* **Emails:**  Parents would like more information about after school activities (times, dates etc.) to have more clarity since not all kids communicate in great detail.
* **School Lunch Program:** Will be rolled out in September. They have been in to inspect the facilities, but we have no more details at this time as to whether it will be prepared on site or delivered.
* **Volunteer Info:** Perhaps send out a reminder for parents that should they foresee wanting to volunteer in school or on an outing, they must have up-to-date background checks.HRCE employees are covered with their checks provided to the employers.

1. **End of Meeting: 6:45 p.m. Next Meeting is on April 10, 2024.**