

**Herring Cove Junior High**  
**School Advisory Committee Meeting**  
April 10, 2025  
6:00 p.m.  
Via MS Teams

**Present:** Jim Curry, Brent Keough, Lisa Verrall, Josh Chapman, Christina Neary, Sherisse O'Leary

**Regrets:** Olive Taussig, Nicole McKeever, Holly Lake, Erica Reid, Kelly O'Sullivan, Charlie Ewing

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**1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of February 19, 2025**

Approved without changes.

**2. Tabled Business (From February 19, 2025)**

**a) Parent Survey:** A survey was prepared but there wasn't enough time to get it sent before the PT meetings in April. We will attempt to send before the next meeting.

**b) SAC Funds/Grant Requests:**

- Lisa Verrall: Request for educational games to practice oral language in French classes \$280- **Approved**
- Raynelle DeRoche: Subscription to Scholastic Action Magazine. Contains high interest articles and easily used for differentiation across all reading levels. \$300/year for site-wide access. **Approved.**
- Natalie Longaphy: Request for funding for a health unit outcome to teach children to prepare healthy foods. Funds requested: \$5/student. **Approved.**
- Bike Rack: Mr. Curry will make the request to HRCE Maintenance who will install it and maintain it, as per HRCE policy. **Previously Approved.**

**3. New Business**

**a) Grade 8 Closing/End of Year Activities:** June 20<sup>th</sup> will be closing ceremony for Grade 8. There will be some changes made, to include completion certificates for all in addition to the academic and athletic awards. The Grade 8s will also be going to Atlantic Splash Adventure. Last dance will be held on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Maguire will be invited to the closing ceremony as well.

**b) Fire Inspections Report:** A report was received, and we had to dispose of a great deal of old furniture, paper, classroom decorations etc. Also, all the sports banners had to be removed as they are not sprayed with fire-retardant. A discussion has been had about having an online auction for the banners, as a fundraiser for the purchase of new uniforms for our school teams. All agree.

**c) Construction Updates:** The library is almost complete. The students are using it regularly now. The natural light is wonderful, and the view is unbelievable. The floor will be done in the summer. The cafeteria is done, but the floor will be replaced in the summer, same for the band room. The students' washrooms have been started (flooring, sinks, toilets etc.) but the stall partitions were delayed. They will be installed in two-three weeks. Lockers will be replaced over the summer. New ceilings will be installed in the hallways as well.

**4. Principal's Report:**

- a) Sports** – Badminton is finished, football is currently happening, and softball and track and field will start soon. – Go Vikings!!
- b) School Dance** – Next dance scheduled for May 8. Our last Dance of the year is scheduled for June 19.
- c) We are growing!** - Registrations are up and we are estimated to have a school population of 265 students next year. At this time, I do not yet have confirmation of how many homerooms there will be.

- d) **African Dance** – HCJH once again hosted the folks from the African Dance Academy. The instructors not only taught the kids some new dance steps, but also about African Heritage.
- e) **Skilled Trades Presentation** – This was once again well received, and our grade 8's had a blast!
- f) **Talent Show** – will happen in May this year – we are all looking forward to this annual event!
- g) **Academic Awards** – for term 2 were completed and handed out.
- h) **Sock Hop** – We had our first “Sock Hop” just before March Break. There were dance competitions and a Wii Sports room for those who didn't want to dance. It was a lot of fun and a great school wide activity that ended off a fantastic Spirit Week.
- i) **Transition meetings** - with Sambro, William King and Harrietsfield Elementary happening soon to talk about our grade 6 students for next year. We will also be meeting with JL Ilsley to advise them about our grade 8's moving up next year.
- j) **Grade 8 RMW8 Testing** - All grade 8's at HCJH will be writing the RMW8's in May. This is a provincial test that does not count towards a student's final grade, it is a good indicator of how well they are meeting curriculum standards in ELA and Math. This test is also a tool used by the school to see what areas of these subjects that we may need to focus on.
- k) **Ski Trip** – Unfortunately due to weather this was cancelled (twice). Mr. Keough is already looking into booking a date for next year.
- l) **Construction Update** – a lot happening on this front! Completed projects include our roof, skylights, library, cafeteria and band room, also new floors and vanities have been installed in our student washrooms. Construction will now mostly take a pause until the summer where bathroom, locker, and floor renovations will be completed.
- m) **Renovations**- The renovations look great, and I am hoping that in the fall, we can have an open house to show the community the awesome work that has been completed.
- n) **Fire Inspectors Report** – HRM has taken over fire inspection duties for HRCE schools from the province. Due to some new safety standards, we were forced to throw out a lot of older furniture. I will talk about this under New Business.
- o) **Updates for Parents** – In addition to my weekly emails, I have also linked our daily announcements to our website. These announcements are always available and the link to how to access this information has been included in my weekly update.

## 5. Student Report

- None.

## 6. Other Business

Q: Have there been any updates for lunch program next year: We've been given three options:

- 1- Prepared on site
- 2- Delivered to the school (already portioned)
- 3- Delivered to the school and served in school (bulk quantities)

The SAC will have to advise on this issue at the next meeting. The kitchen may require upgrades as well, if the meals are to be prepared on-site. Questions were raised about portion sized and how they should be proportional by age. Questions about who will be serving the meals as well.

## 7. End of Meeting: 6:40 p.m. Next Meeting is on May 22, 2025, in person in the HCJH Library.