

Herring Cove Junior High
School Advisory Committee Meeting
May 22, 2025
6:00 p.m.
HCJH Library

Present: Jim Curry, Brent Keough, Lisa Verrall, Josh Chapman, Christina Neary, Olive Taussig,

Regrets: Sherisse O'Leary, Nicole McKeever, Holly Lake, Erica Reid, Kelly O'Sullivan, Charlie Ewing

1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2025

Approved without changes.

2. Old Business:

Lunch Program: parents will be ordering online and the meals will be prepared off site and portioned off site, then delivered. Parents will have to register with the NS Government and they then choose their meal options. The menu is with pictures, so students will know what to expect.

3. New Business

- a. **Grade 8 Closing / End of Year Activities:** This will take place on June 25. There will be an assembly and awards presentation where all students will be presented with completion certificate. Brendan Maguire, Minister of Education will be in attendance. Grade 6s will be going bowling and have a lunch BBQ in the afternoon, the grade 7s will be going to Activate and the grade 8s will be going to the water park.
- b. **Construction Updates:** The windows and blinds have been installed. The bathrooms are completed (partitions, floor tiles, sinks and toilets). This summer the lockers and ceilings will be replaced. The flooring in the library, cafeteria and band room will also be replaced.
- c. **End-of-year Report:** Presented by Mr. Curry to the members. It will be submitted to the HRCE and Ministry of Education.
- d. **Goodbyes & Thanks:**

4. Principal's Report:

- **Sports** – Flag Football and Track are complete; Softball is currently happening. We are hopeful to have both a girl's and boy's teams this year. Things are busy, but the kids are loving it. Sports overall had a successful year, and the kids had some great experiences. Much thanks should go to our many volunteers that made it all possible.
- **School Dance** – Our last Dance of the year is scheduled for June 19th. All students are welcome. We are going to have a special room for our out-going grade 8 students which will include a photo booth, sweets and some other fun activities.
- **Neptune Theatre School** – Unfortunately our scheduled performance was cancelled due to illness. We will hopefully be able to book this great show again next year.
- **We are growing!** - Registrations are up and we are estimated to have a school population of over 265. There is a strong possibility that we are going to have even more students in September and if so, we will reconfigure accordingly. But, as of now we will have 12 homerooms (4 in grade 6, 4 in grade 7 and 4 in grade 8). Grade 5 orientation was also a success.

- **Transition meetings** - with Sambro, William King and Harrietsfield Elementary happening this month. We will also meet with JL Ilsley. We have taken several students and groups to tour the High School and JLI is planning an open house for May 22nd.
- **Healthy Hunger Update** – We have been using this program all year and our vendors have been very reliable. This system will be changing next year as the province extends its lunch program to include junior high and high schools. I have no details to share yet, other than it will be an online order system for parents, the food will be delivered to the school and then distributed at lunch.
- **Immunizations** –Public Health NS will complete standard immunizations for students in grade 7 and some students in grade 8 (who may have been missed in the initial rounds) on June 4th. This was a continuation of immunizations that were given at the start of the year.
- **RWM8 Grade 8 Assessments** – Will take place on May 26-31. These provincial tests do not “count” for individual report card grades, but they are used as an indicator for areas of strengths and challenges for students. Teachers also use the overall results as a reflective tool when focusing our lessons and units of study.
- **End of the Year Activities** - After some great input from the staff, we have decided to create a week of activities to celebrate what has been an excellent year in school. During the week of June 17-21, we are planning trips such as bowling, *Activate*, the Atlantic Splash. We are also planning a school-wide BBQ, a dance, and the grade 8 awards ceremony. As always, we will take stock of which activities were popular and hopefully begin/continue some new traditions! Of note, the Minister of Education (Brendan MacGuire) has been invited to our closing ceremonies, and it is our hope that he will speak to our grade 8’s and help us hand out our certificates and awards.
- **Teaching Staff who are Leaving** – Although the hiring process has just begun, we will have several staff moving on to other positions in the HRCE, they include term teachers, Mr. Bing, Mr. Stover, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Rhindress. Ms. Timmins has decided to move schools, and Ms. Hendsbee (EPA) is retiring. We wish them well in their future pursuits.

Student’s Report:

- Olive asked for clarifications on what ILT is for. This year, students were grouped with some teachers to continue learning. Sometimes the periods were used for completion of assignments, sometimes students explore other learning opportunities that may or may not be connected to their curriculum.

Other Business:

- January 23rd, 2026 is booked for the ski trip for next year’s grade 7 and 8 students.
- Mr. Curry already has two incoming parents who have expressed interest on participating on the SAC for the upcoming school year.

Next Meeting: End of Meeting: 6:40 p.m. Next Meeting: September 2025. Meeting dates for the 2025-2026 school year will be set in September.