

Joseph Howe Elementary School Advisory Council

MEETING SUMMARY

22nd October 2024, 6pm

1. Attendance (names and positions held)

- Michael MacDonald – Principal
- Phill Thomas – Vice Principal (Acting)
- Julie Tannous – Teacher
- Sara Jennex – Teacher
- Laura Hutt – Schools Plus Outreach
- Paula Adams – Community Member
- Chloe Talarico – Community Member
- Marika Paris - Parent
- Sheleema Flint – Parent
- Samantha McPhee – Parent
- Jade Paris - Parent

Apologies

- Fatima Hussain– Parent
- Whitney Clayton – Community Member
- -YouthNet

2. Call to order: Chair; Call to order time.

3. Approval of agenda: (names and position held)

- New members introduced

4. Approval of previous meeting's summary: (names and position held)

- Minutes reviewed and approved

5. School Walkthrough

- SAC Observations
- Small playground needs to be overhauled
 - Basketball court could use attention
 - Something to play on the playground
 - More interactive playground equipment e.g. musical instruments, things that spin for individuals
 - ASD/neuro friendly activities
 - Mulch – could be replaced for rubber mulch
- Courtyard – on the bigger playground – could use more activities e.g. painted on ground
- Fenced “Garden area” – Greenhouse/needs could be developed
- No green space at the school

6. Business arising from the meeting summary

a. French position has now been filled

b. Small playground update

We are not on the capital project list. MM investigating how we are placed on the HRM Capital Project list.

SAC can write to local representative

6. School improvement plan update (SSP)

a. Literacy, just below 70% of all students are meeting (63 students who are not there yet). Support from literacy support, volunteer making literacy supports for at homework. This year up to 38% meeting on Provincial assessment (Grade 3). Front loading in early elementary– writing is improving. Student schedules all have reading and writing every day.

7. New business

b. PD last week – What do staff see as a need in school?

- Volunteers e.g. trips, food distribution. Has been challenging to find volunteers. SAC ideas for volunteer recruitment:
 - Letter to go home to ask for volunteers
 - Calenda of events
 - Cost is a barrier – could offer to cover the cost

c. Registration

This year is more consistent – 338 at beginning and now we are 332

d. Basketball has started

Sarah Gray has run trials and practice will start

e. Drills

All initial drills have been completed: Fire, Lockdown and hold/secure drills

f. Other school news

Assembly running biweekly. Caring Schools curriculum PD. Imhotep in today – thanks to Mr Colley. BEA tutoring started (Leah started on Monday 5-7pm) to be shared by homeroom teachers.

AOB

- Provincial lunch – begins next week

8. Next meeting: November 19th 2024

9. Adjournment: 7.00pm