

SAC Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, April 8, 2025 • 6:00 PM • Google Meet

Attendees:

Heather Napoli, Chair - Parent Representative
Liz Hallett, Vice-Chair - Parent Representative
Lauren Bowes, Secretary - Support Staff Representative
David O'Brien - Principal
Melanie Connors-Blades - Teacher Representative
Shelley Mills - Community Representative

Regrets:

NONE

Approval of Minutes for Previous Meeting

No changes were made to the minutes of the February 11, 2025 meeting.

Principal's Report to the SAC

David O'Brien presented the Principal's Report to the SAC. As of April 8, 2025 ESM has 81 students enrolled for the 2025/26 school year.

Heather Napoli asked when parents would be notified of their student's classroom placement in the event a grade must be split. David O'Brien responded that the final decision will be made later in the summer to ensure any new student registrations that may be received are included in class totals. Heather Napoli further asked how the decision is made to place students in certain classes in the event a grade must be split. David O'Brien reported that contrary to popular belief, when the decision to split a grade is made, students are not placed based on their academic ability. For example, lower performing students would not be automatically kept in the lower split with higher performing students sent to the higher split (P/1 vs. $\frac{1}{2}$). The decision is made based on a number of factors that include:

1. Social Needs - staff is constantly observing student social interactions and never separate a student from their entire social group; we make sure that every student has at least one friend in class;
2. Academic Ability - further to making sure each student has a classmate they enjoy spending time with, we also work to make sure that each student also has a classmate they can work well with on the same academic level;
3. Personality - ESM staff takes into consideration the personality of each student to determine in which class that student will excel rather than struggle.

Our staff is top notch, and no matter which classroom a student is placed in the event their grade level must be split, they will be taught the curriculum of their grade level and will be assessed to the benchmarks of their grade level.

● Academics & Data

- David O'Brien presented the Term 2 Literacy and Math Results to the SAC outlining the number of students meeting expectations in Reading, Writing, and

Math at the end of Term 2. He included the results of the Provincial Grade 3 exam, which was completed in May 2024 by our current Grade 4 students as well as the results of the Provincial Grade 6 exam, which was completed in September 2025 by our current Grade 6 students.

- These assessments are used by teachers to plan a cycle of continuous assessment >> planning >> re-assessment >> planning. This is done when looking at individual students, classes as a whole, for discussion between staff members in Teacher Support Teams and other Collaborations, and as part of our school-wide reflection of our practices.
- **Maintenance & Safety**
 - No maintenance or safety matters to report at this time.
- **Field Trips**
 - The following trips are booked
 - Pre-Primary - Grade 2: Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park
 - Grade 3/4: Discovery Centre
 - Grade 5/6: Bayside Camp
- **School Culture**
 - David O'Brien is continuing Roots of Empathy with success.
 - In May, we have scheduled a WITS (Writers in the Schools) visit by author and illustrator Brianna Corr Scott, who will be doing writing and art workshops for all classes.
- **Professional Development**
 - Melanie Connors-Blades attended a conference on The Science of Reading
 - Colleen Cavanaugh attended the Innovative School Summit conference
 - Christa Spicer attended PD on writing in Grade 3

New Business

- Heather Napoli requested an update on the state of our parking lot, which had been previously discussed at an earlier SAC meeting.
 - Lauren Bowes reported that since that meeting, it has been discovered that we were incorrectly informed that the provincial government is responsible for the state of school lots. In fact, the HRCE owns the driveway and parking lot beyond the gate, and the HRM owns the driveway from Peggys Cove Rd to the gate. Our school building supervisor is aware of the state of the lot and has been out to inspect the lot on multiple occasions. Prior to March Break, the HRM filled in the holes on their property as well as the larger potholes on HRCE property, but since then, the crusher dust that was used has been washed away by the rain. Again, the building supervisor is aware of this. The building supervisor has informed ESM that the parking lot is on the radar and will be fixed once the capital is raised to do so.

Adjournment - 6:56 PM