



School Advisory Council Annual Report – June 2019

School	East St. Margaret’s Consolidated School
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Please list SAC members including names, membership type (i.e., parent, community member, staff), and role (i.e., Chair, Vice Chair).

SAC Chair: Lesley Publicover
Parents: Sam Ryer, Lori Mills & Cynthia Carter
Principal: Susan Casey
Teacher: Trish Cuvelier (NSTU)
Support Staff: Currently open
Community Representative: Currently open

Please describe a summary of work undertaken by the SAC to improve student achievement and school performance.

East St. Margaret’s Consolidated School has a small School Advisory Council (SAC) that runs a wonderful, close-knit school in a rural area by Peggy’s Cove. We take pride in every child in our school and have taken many opportunities this year to help them each achieve, not only personal goals but team and school wide goals as well.

Our ESM Student Success Plan is in year 1- creation of new school goals. In September 2018, the school staff received information regarding the new Student Success Plan format and began looking at the assessment data that was gathered over the past five years. The data sources that were used to determine the new school goals were from provincial assessments and school assessments. This data guided our discussions and decisions around student achievement and how we wanted to move forward as a school to raise the bar and close the achievement gap. In November, our staff met to determine the goals for literacy and numeracy. Based on the data, it was decided that the focus for literacy would be *“To improve student achievement in writing with a focus on ideas and organization”* and the goal for numeracy would be *“To improve student achievement in being able to communicate their understanding and thinking process in number sense”*.

The staff also continued their journey of learning around culturally relevant pedagogy. In September, the staff participated in a “Blanket Activity” which highlighted the historical experiences of indigenous cultures before colonization and after colonization. In November, Jacob Gale, from the HRCE, attended a staff meeting to work with staff around the Indigenous culture and history. The students were also able to have opportunities for learning about various cultures through workshops, presentations and field trips throughout the year. For example, in February 2019, the school

welcomed Jacob Gale back to do a workshop with all of the students in P-6 around Indigenous culture and history. The students enjoyed getting to know more about the culture. Some students reported that after this workshop they learned that there were many friends and families in our community with Indigenous backgrounds.

In December, the Student Success Plan was presented to the SAC for discussion, input and revision. The SAC reviewed the overall plan and felt that based on the data, the goals and strategies were appropriate for moving student achievement forward in literacy and numeracy. During the April and May Professional Development Days, staff began to focus on a strategy from the student success plan. Staff focused on I CAN statements. Staff learned how I Can statements can be used in the classroom to help the students know exactly what they are learning and to begin the journey of students taking ownership for their own learning.

As a School Advisory Council, we are supporting the literacy and numeracy goals within our Student Success plan and working at providing opportunities around different cultural and lifestyle experiences so that the students are able to build an understanding of the different cultures that exist in Nova Scotia. Due to the rural nature of our community, we are limited in some ways due to a lack of transportation (ie: no metro transit bussing), low income and long commutes to local community centers, libraries, swimming pools and rinks to name a few. Nevertheless, Our SAC Committee is committed to providing a variety of new experiences for all students and the funds that the committee has been allocated allows these experiences to be possible.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lesley Publicover

Lesley Publicover
SAC Chair for East St. Margaret's Consolidated School

Date: June 10, 2019

Please list any significant milestones and success stories that the SAC would like to highlight.

Our School Advisory Council is dedicated to supplementing school wide experiences for all students so that there is no financial charge to families. This year, the SAC has supported the following activities:

- Fall skating program for the whole school
- Spring swim lessons for the whole school
- Celtic Rathskallions Performance
- 13th Annual Goddard Peace Conference
- P-4 Field trip bowling
- Whole school field trip to Africville

Please describe any related sub-committee work undertaken by SAC members (e.g., School Options Committee).

N/A

Statements of Revenues and Expenditures:

Expenditures supporting the school improvement plan (e.g., providing resources to support math and literacy instruction).

On December 17th, 2018, \$3544.00 was received for the remaining fiscal year (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019). With these funds, the SAC was able to provide the following opportunities for students:

- P-4 Field Trip bowling (Focus: Health and well-being)
- Gr. 5/6 Peace Conference (Focus: Health and well-being)
- Classroom materials for makerspace and student organization items (Focus: Literacy and Math goals)
- Recess bin items (health and wellbeing)
- Celtic Rathskallions Performance (Celtic experience of sing, dance, heritage and storytelling) (Focus: Literacy goal/ cross-curricular programming)
- Classroom resources for students (Focus: Literacy goal)
- Library flexible seating options (Focus: Health and well-being)

Expenditures supporting policy development and implementation (e.g., supporting and promoting new policies).

N/A

Expenditures covering operational expenses; up to 20 per cent of provincial SAC funding may be used as operational expenses, if necessary, to encourage and support member participation).

N/A

Please return to School Administration Supervisor by Thursday, June 21st, 2019. Thank you.