

## **Bell Park Academic Centre School Advisory Council**

**Date: January 21, 2025**

**Members:** Tara Rutledge (admin), Cathy McDonald Johnston (co-chair/ parent), Jeannine McDonald (community), Nyesha Sparks (co-chair/ parent), Amanda Hayre (secretary/ parent), Jennifer Harding (staff), Gina Dunn (staff), Mary Smith (community/ staff)

**Regrets:** Danita Williams, Jenn Smith, Karen Bartell

### **1. Approval of previous minutes, review new agenda items**

- Land acknowledgement and welcome
- Last meeting minutes will be emailed to all members to review and give any feedback. Once approved they will be uploaded onto the school website.

### **2. Student Success Plan update**

- Cycle 1 was reviewed in December 2024. Ms. Rutledge completed this with the school staff and there was feedback given from the school supervisor to pinpoint a specific strategy.

**Literacy Goal:** Improve student achievement in literacy for all students and specifically students who are of African and/ or Mi'kmaw or Indigenous descent. The focus has been on Phonemic Awareness and the teaching staff will assist in determining if this will continue or if cycle 2 will be on improving writing skills.

**Numeracy Goal:** Improving success in mathematics and specifically students who are of African and/ or Mi'kmaw or Indigenous descent. Fact fluency will be continued into cycle 2.

**Well-Being Goal:** Improve student well-being and specifically students who are of African and/ or Mi'kmaw or Indigenous descent. Ensuring that all students have at least one adult in the building that they feel comfortable with going to when needed. This will be a big push in cycle 2.

### **3. Review/update of Bylaws and Agreement**

- Reviewed the staff, community members, guardian members- at least 2 of each at all times. If needed to vote, there will be two guardians selected. Tara is a non-voting member.

**Staff Members:** Jennifer Harding and Gina Dunn

Community Members: Jeannine McDonald and Mary Smith

Parent/ Guardians: Cathy McDonald Johnston, Nyesha Sparks, Karen Bartell, Amanda Hayre

- By-law paperwork will be completed by Tara and shared with members. Co-Chairs (Cathy and Nyesha) will sign once finalized. Tara will modify the document to include that if needed there will be one member from each group for a meeting to continue. There would be 3 voting members plus an administrator present at all meetings.

#### **4. Principal's Report**

- Current enrollment is 264 students
- February is registration month and these numbers would help determine the staffing numbers for the next school year. Pre-primary students are automatically enrolled into primary.
- The holiday shop was a huge success, there was a short delay to allow for more donations
- The holiday concert was a huge hit with the community members. Both the afternoon and evening concerts were well attended. The way tickets were distributed to families created long lines that could be avoided if things were different for next year.

#### **5. SAC Grant budget update**

The SAC account has a balance of approximately \$5263.00 and this was deposited at the end of November.

- The school currently has about 20 new iPads that have yet to be used because they do not have any protective cases. Tara requested a quote from the school technology staff for all 20 cases and apple airplay. This could be an important tool to facilitate teachers instruction in their classrooms, the plan would be for each teacher to have one in their classrooms to support programming. This was discussed and it was approved that the SAC will help fund this.
- Afrocentric sashes are another important purchase for the school's dance group. Mary will speak to Rachel Ross for a connection on purchasing these for the group. Nyesha's father is a school administrator who has recently purchased sashes for his school and will connect with him about where he made this purchase. The SAC has agreed to help fund the sashes.
- The remaining funds will be used to support the school wide, *Wellness Day* as well as end of the year field trips to offset some of the financial costs associated with transportation.

#### **6. Important Upcoming Dates**

- February is African Heritage Month. Mary has daily announcements and activities tentatively planned with another teacher. Potential ideas, a local hairdresser will come in and discuss the importance of hair care and teach different techniques to the students, other community speakers, painting self-portraits, etc. The school will have Keonte Beals in to perform on February 21, 2025 for the entire school.
- Valentine's dance will be organized by Home and School. Held at the school from 6:00-7:30 on February 13, 2025
- No school February 17th: Heritage Day

## **7. Meeting Dates for the year**

October 22, 2024 (In person: completed)

November 19, 2024 (Virtual: completed)

January 21, 2025 (Virtual: completed)

March 25, 2025 (Virtual)

April 15, 2025

May 20, 2025

## **9. Next meeting date:**

The next meeting will be held March 25, 2025 at 6:30 pm and done via Microsoft Meets

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm