

Hawthorn SAC Meeting
March 4th, 2026

Members present:

Tina Waterhouse-Campbell
Candice Bambury
Sean Sullivan
Scott McGaw
Julia Stephenson
Meghan Momborquette
Alison Campbell
Donna Gillispie
Emily Mercer

Parent: Emily Mercer

Regrets:

Teacher: Sheri Stulac
Parent: Kate MacDonald
Support Staff: Deb Copeland

1) Call to order

2) Approval of agenda
Scott McGaw approved
Donna Gillispie second

3) Approval of previous minutes
Julia Stephenson approved
Alison Campbell seconded

4) SSP -
Math

- With the support of David Rodger's our Math coach, teachers identified where who were not yet meeting and planned targeted next steps for each student.
- P-6 Teachers worked with Mr. Rodger's to plan small group intervention to close gaps in learning. This data will be reviewed again 6 weeks from the beginning of term three.

- Progress will be analyzed and the learning targets adjusted to reflect the progress for each student.

Literacy

- Using teacher assessments in both reading and writing P-6, we are meeting with teachers again to plan for the next cycle of intervention.
- Resource, ELST, classroom teachers and admin will be identifying students who need intervention and planning groups both with classroom teachers and specialists to address learning needs. Students are grouped based on similar learning targets.

Well being

- Focus on student belonging
- Admin and teachers are partnering to increase belonging for students including learning and support when students make mistakes or when they have been victimized.
- Belonging assemblies - the next one has to do with safe adults. As a staff we are checking in with students who we know need the connections to be strengthened at school.
- As a staff we are paying attention to student voice. One way has been the clubs that have been created that were student led. (Math club, Coding club and Sketching club)

5) Principal's report

January Updates:

- Belonging Assembly- Personal Space and Consent (We used a read aloud picture book "Don't touch my hair")
- Mi'kmaq elder Charlotte Bernard did two assemblies one for

Pr-2 and one for 3-6- Two eyed seeing and talking circle

FEBRUARY

African Heritage Month Speakers- We had a group of African Nova Scotian student leaders who introduced our speakers at the assemblies and were able to connect with the speakers.

- Tia Upshaw - From where you are to where you meant to be. Talked to students about self love, empowerment and finding their why.

- Julia Tynes Pop and R and B Artist - The Power of your Voice- speak, sing and shine. Through fun vocal exercises, big sing-alongs and opportunities for students to step up to the mic. Students explored how words-spoken, written, and sung-can inspire change, celebrate individuality and show strength when they express themselves.
- Krista Drummond - parent/community member/social worker spoke to grade fours (Message to the students about: community, inclusion and voices for people)
- Wendie Wilson- creator of the African Nova Scotian Flag. She shared about the need for more resources for African Nova Scotian students that represent their history and culture. She explained that this was her inspiration for the African Canadian Flag.
- Bradley Daye - CEO of [Placemaking 4G](#) a company that helps young people find their way with their careers, with a focus on creating places and spaces where people can belong versus just fit it. His message to students was about ways they can create belonging for themselves and others. He also shared his passion for football and coaching in the CFL. He shared his family history, his grandfather is Buddy Daye. This inspired one of our grade six students to do their ANS biography on Buddy Daye.

Grade 6 students all did research projects on various people of African descent they were inspired by. Daily project slide shows were shared with teachers, all students answered trivia questions daily and the questions and answers were highlighted in the daily announcements.

- In the final assembly the students sang “Lift Every Voice” and an African folk song.

We had a bulletin board to celebrate our speakers and another to celebrate and showcase students' research projects.

Art Specialist - Jonathan Church is coming to Hawthorn to do workshops with teachers and students for the month of March.

African Drumming from the Regional Arts Specialist- Gail

- Our Math coach Mr. David Rodgers had a huge positive impact on our staff and students. He got really involved with a lunchtime Math club, students were very excited and experienced growth as Mathematicians and leadership roles in the club. The Hawthorn team learned so much from his practice and we are moving forward with higher quality Math instruction, both whole class and small group.

6) Funding Requests
Approximately \$4000

Item	Cost	How it relates to school improvement in Literacy, Math or Well Being.
Count to 20 Flash Cards	\$10.00 x 10+ tax and shipping ~\$120	It provides exposure to multiple ways of number representation seen in school- number, word, dots, ten frames, card dots, base tens, etc
We Will Write subscription	\$152usd~\$300estimated	It supports our ssp goal for writing and give the kids a chance to see their classmates writing with clear feedback about things like clarity, word choice, persuasive language and description.
Nova Scotia Cultural Flags- African NS, Acadian, Mi'Kmaq, Rainbow, Gaelic, NS	\$500-800	Belonging and wellbeing
African Heritage Month Guest Speakers	\$800	Belonging and wellbeing
WITS Briana Corr Scott Author visit - half day (2 workshops for grade 3 and 3/4) February 19, 2026 AM	\$87.50 (school's share) will be invoiced The cheques are to be made out to the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia. Our mailing address is: 1113 Marginal Road Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4P7	This author visit inspired our students by learning more about what writers and illustrators process is, and having a local author read their books to them. This helps improve their interest in writing their own books (Literacy). Ms. Were's class had a book theme about mental health and a related activity, which

		helps students with Well Being.
School supplies/snow gear for families in need	\$400	Wellbeing and belonging
Noise Canceling Headphones and timer	\$87	Promote inclusion, health learning environments-wellbeing goal (belonging)
Birthday pencils	\$150	Wellbeing and belonging
Indoor Curling Sets	\$1250 x 2 sets	Increases participation-Wellbeing

7) New business

8) Asset mapping - Asset maps were handed out and discussed that we will continue with this in the future.

9) Next meeting April 8th

School Supplies- support ideas, donations

School Photographer