

Somerset and District Elementary School

SAC Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Members Present: Deron Moores, Janet Chapple, Kari Saunders, Katie Keddy, Tracey Redden, Hilde Vanhattem, Beth Lamb-Hamilton

Absent: Andrea MacLean, Judy Lavergne

Agenda Items:

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Review and approval of agenda
3. Minutes from February 5, 2020 meeting. Let Janet know if there is anything missing from the minutes from the last meeting.
4. SIP Update: we are continuing to implement the plan that was developed last year. Due to COVID, we will not be creating a new plan this year. Deron will be meeting with teachers the week of Oct 23 to review the plan and remind staff of the foundational instructional practices that need to remain a focus of their practice.

Last year's plan is attached.

5. Professional Development:

Over the first six weeks of the school year staff have been involved in the following professional development: diabetes training, anaphylaxis response training (including how to administer an epi-pen), Fire Safety Training. All of this training is regularly done at the beginning of each year by all staff.

Sept PD Day: this is dedicated to Student Services work. Staff engage in meetings about students and make programming decisions. Work is done to complete adaptations for students who need them.

Oct PD day: coming up on October 23, staff will be working to solidify technology skills related to supporting online learning. This will include ensuring that Google Classrooms are created, populated and maintained. We continue to work to ensure that technology is used to support students during in class work in addition to being available should we need to return to at home learning.

6. Provincial Assessment: we will not have new data to sue/share this year due to the cancellation of assessments in the spring. There is a plan to have grade 3 students write the assessments this year in the areas of reading, writing and math. This will take place over two weeks: May 17-28

7. Student Engagement Update:

Due to COVID restrictions, we will not be able to do many of the things that we normally do for an indefinite period. This includes class trips, in school special guests, sports and concerts.

We do continue to look at how we can support engagement in class and during free times. We have purchased additional Chromebooks so more students can access them to support their learning.

We continue to implement Culturally Responsive classroom strategies to engage more students in class. This includes the use of Call and Response and Outrageous Love class management strategies and CRP instructional strategies to get students moving, talking and sharing during all class work.

We are currently gathering “Loose Parts” materials for playground use and will be implementing this to provide students with more options during their outside time.

We have created three outdoor classroom spaces using tree stumps.

We continue to purchase games and books for students to use in class and during inside break time.

8. Enrolment Information: currently we have 175 students grade P-5 and 21 Pre-primary students. We have several students being homeschooled due to COVID that would have our regular student enrolment at around 190 (210 if you include pre-primary)  
This number is a decrease from what we projected through the summer. We lost more students in August and early September then we gained.

9. SAC Funds: a motion was put forward to use last year's SAC money (\$5000) to support the purchase of school supplies for students.  
This year's new money (again around \$5000) will be allotted to us soon. Beth and Angelene have created a Google doc for SDES staff to again ask for ideas for how to spend this year's money.

Ideas put forward during this meeting include:

Classroom bins for outside (soccer balls, footballs, garbage cans on wheels)

Winter materials: snow shoes, shovels and buckets, etc

Outside Yatzee, checkers, snakes and ladders

Tracy will ask Mike Ouelette for information detailing when we might expect the new money.

10. Cafeteria:

There was a lengthy discussion related to the current state of school cafeterias. There is frustration and disappointment that the meals are not what they were and that schools have lost control of what they serve and how they operate. Many of our team agree that making menus standardized across all schools is a good idea, it has not rolled out in an appropriate fashion. It was brought up that there is a petition going around calling for decisions to go back to the school level.

Deron reiterated that Dave Jones/Regional Leadership team, will make sure that all students have access to high quality/healthy food. That the current state of things will pass.

Deron encouraged folks who are frustrated to continue to contact him and he will communicate issues directly to his supervisors. He has received and continues to receive emails from community/families and passes along information to Regional Office.

Families have asked for a mechanism to be in place where they can look at their menu or receive an email reviewing what they ordered. We will look into how to do this.

11. Public Input: for the next meeting, Deron will send the SAC meeting link to all SDES families through an ALERT Email. The hope is to encourage others to attend the meeting and give input.
12. Next meeting December 9 7:00 pm.
13. Meeting adjourned.