

**Marion Bridge School  
SAC Agenda  
Monday, February 12, 2024**

1. SAC members in attendance:

Parent - Kristen Walker

Community - Veronica Merryfield

Community - Darlene Walker

School - Jessica Randall (NSTU) - Google Meets

Principal - Ruth Clarke (Non-voting member)

Not in attendance:

Parent - Emma Hawley

Vacant:

School (CUPE)

2. Introduction of new community member - Darlene Walker

3. Review of Meeting Minutes from October 12-23

*Meeting minutes were accepted with no changes*

**New Business;**

1. Grade Three Provincial Assessments - 2022-2023

- Overview of school results - areas of strength and concern

- *The Principal shared the school results for the provincial grade three assessments for literacy and mathematics that had been written in May 2023.*
- *Overall, our students performed well in reading and mathematics.*
- *The specific area of concern for Marion Bridge School is in writing. The results indicate that there was a significant drop in the level of success for our students in 2023.*
- *As a professional learning community, we have studied and reviewed the data from the assessment and have focused our SSP goals on writing.*
- *The math and literacy assessments for 2024 will be written in May. Practice packages and pre-assessment resources will begin to arrive at the school in mid-April.*

## 2. Attendance - Overall improvements noted in 2023-24

- February 2023 - **13** students had met the 10% threshold
- February 2024 - **2** students have met the 10% threshold
- *It has been noted that free hot lunch on Wednesdays has had a positive impact on attendance on that day with some carry over to Tuesdays and Thursdays. Although overall, we have had an improvement in our attendance numbers, Mondays and Fridays remain the days when we have a dip.*

### 3. Free Hot Lunches - Wednesdays throughout the winter. Supported by the Home & School

- *Free hot lunches continue to be very popular*
- *We continue to be funded by the Home & School*
- *EECD (Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development) has provided a small grant that will enable us to continue to offer free hot lunch during April.*
- *Grilled cheese and veggies continue to be available and the most popular of our lunch choices. It was suggested that we may be able to expand on our hot lunch offerings to include two days a week. As grilled cheese is affordable for the school, we could offer this choice every week plus a second choice on another day.*

### 4. Regional SAC:

- a. Formation of a Regional SAC
  - b. Terms and conditions
  - c. Applications for a regional council - diversity of membership
  - d. winter/spring meetings
- *Our Chair, Veronica, has put her name forward to participate in the Regional SAC and attended the first meeting on March 20-24.*

## Standing Items:

SSP focus for 2023-2024 - short cycle goals were reevaluated in January and new goals with a short, sharp focus were established for January to April.

- **Well-being** - whole body wellness including nutrition and healthy food, hot meals, mindfulness, physically active framework, community connections

### Healthy Body

- Free hot lunch
- Smoothies and veggies
- Physically Active Framework
- Physical activities—bowling, skiing, skating, curling, outdoor play

### Healthy Mind

#### Mindfulness

Body Boss - personal hygiene bags

Regulating big emotions—Schools Plus

- *Principal shared some of the initiatives that are underway at the school aimed at improving and maintaining student wellbeing.*

- Ionna Poulakis has finished six sessions on mindfulness and anxiety with the grade four -five class. She is now working on managing “big emotions” with our grade two-three class.
- As a follow up, the “Body Boss” program in our grade four-five class is now completed. Personal hygiene bags were provided to all students. These bags included shampoo, body wash, a shower sponge, deodorant, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste, nail clippers and menstrual products for the girls.

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- Kristen indicated that the Marion Bridge TLC group is planning on creating a community garden in the lower field this summer. She has offered that the school could partner with the group as a way to include our students and build community spirit and participation.

- **Literacy** -“Make your writing right.”

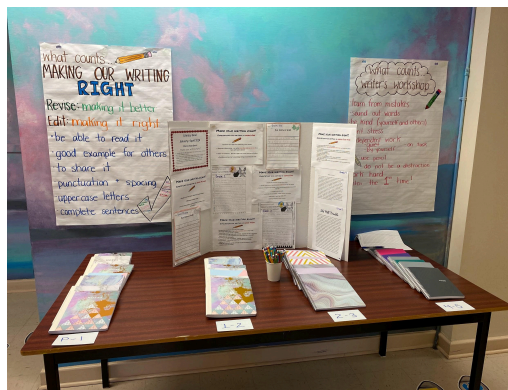
Students will be more open to editing their written work to make it right.

Students will read back what they have written to make sure it makes sense and to look for errors.

- · Students will edit their written work first for conventions and then language use, ideas and organization.

- *The Principal shared the results of our first short cycle goal (September to December). Students had been able to increase the amount they were writing and persevere through the writing process.*
- *Students discovered the word count feature and it had become somewhat of a competition. Teachers reported that while the length of the writing had increased, it was not necessarily matched with an improvement in the quality of the written work (ideas, organization, language use and conventions).*
- *This informed our second short cycle goal for January to April - to make our writing right - a focus on editing and revising.*
- *The community members questioned how parents would be aware of the curriculum expectations for writing. It was decided that the school would provide information for parents during the next parent -teacher meeting sessions in March.*
- *Parents were informed in advance through several weekly newsletters that this information sharing would be taking place during the parent-teacher meeting times.*

- As suggested by the SAC, the school purchased special notebooks and pencils for all of the students. These were given to parents who attended the sessions.
- For those students whose parents were unable to attend, the notebooks and pencils were distributed the next school day so everyone received them.
- The information - grade level writing expectations and exemplars of student work were also provided digitally to families through the weekly newsletter following the parent -teacher conference date.
- The students loved the notebooks and many are using theirs daily and can be seen carrying them around the classroom and school grounds.



## Mathematics - “Just the facts.”

- Students will improve the automaticity of fact recall (addition and/or multiplication) based on grade level outcomes.
- Teachers indicated that students were being bogged down with number operations due to spending time trying to complete basic computations of math facts. With automaticity, a step in the process is removed and

*students are able to concentrate on learning the expected outcomes for grade level mathematics.*

- Teachers report that students are actually really enjoying the daily mental math activities aimed at automaticity and it is translating into their learning.*

## **SAC Budget for 2023-24**

- **\$6400.72 - current balance**
  - The members of the SAC have indicated that they would like to use the money in the SAC budget to once again finance a "Family Connections Night" early in September to welcome students and families to the school.*
  - The event was very successful in September 2023 and everyone felt it started the school year off on a very positive note.*
  - The Principal will reach out to Schools Plus who were instrumental in organizing and facilitating the event.*
  - It is agreed that it is necessary to provide free food as part of the event.*

## **1. Meeting dates for 2023-2024:**

October 12-23

November 21-23 - Public Meeting for SACs in the Riverview Family of Schools

January 29-24 \*\*\*Rescheduled - February 12-24

April 8-24 \*\*\*\*Rescheduled to accommodate member availability to April 29. \*\*\*\*

May 27-24

