

## **Springvale School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting – Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Virtual Google Meeting

**In Attendance:** Michelle Lamont (Principal), Kassandra Knight (Chair/Parent), Barbara Wheeler (Vice-Chair/Parent), Tracy McFeters (Teacher), Jill Zhang (Teacher), Ariane Savi (Parent), Mona Atkins (Support Staff), Katie Kirkpatrick (Parent)

**Regrets:** Laurie Slaunwhite (Vice Principal), Pam Boyd (Community Member), Sheila Doucet (Community Member), Jean Robertson (Teacher)

1. **Call to order** 6:06pm
2. **Review of Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2025** - approved by Katie and Kass
3. **Principal's Report**
  - a. **Staffing changes** - Ms. Locke is leaving for the UK, replaced by Abby Strachan and a new EPA Shannon Belding, known already to the students from the after school program, has been hired.
  - b. **SSP (Student Success Plan) update – CYCLE 2:**
    - i. Focus on oral language and explicit vocabulary instruction (connection to rich language choices in writing). (Book Creator workshop for teachers after school last week).
    - ii. Looking at how we are tracking Math fluency progress and obtaining school wide assessment data, perhaps establishing a baseline. (PD for all teachers afterschool to support collaboration in fact fluency tracking, will invite the math consultant to work with P-3 teachers)
    - iii. Well-being - Creating opportunities to decrease barriers for EAL students and increasing connection amongst all students by building capacity and collaboration amongst students in regards to vocabulary development (to improve interpersonal skills and relationships between EAL students and their English first language classmates). Speak Up Club is going well.
  - c. **Upcoming dates**
    - i. Maritime Centre for African Dance (Feb. 21)
    - ii. March 6 - Grades 4-6 Swim trip (am)
    - iii. Neptune – booked for Spring (dates will be sent in February)
  - d. **Financial information**
    - i. \$4249.85 (SAC) - remaining.
    - ii. **Mural** – The Principal presented her proposal for a large-scale mural to be painted on the side of the school facing the playground.

Principal's Vision/Concept:

"I talked about using the vantage point from up here on the hill (we can see the shipping traffic at the mouth of the harbour up the Northwest Arm, the McKay bridge, the smokestacks, etc.) to

create an image that mirrors the harbour and how important it has been to us and our ancestors through time. The Mi'kmaq name for Halifax, K'jipuktuk also has the harbour at the core of its meaning. We could have an image that demonstrates how Halifax is a welcoming entry point and home for all of our families."

Three quotations are required to be reviewed, before an artist can be chosen.

Three artists have shown interest in the project after being contacted by the Principal for quotations:

1. Mike Burt - Trackside Studios \$11.5 K including HST
2. Elliot "Swade" Owens \$12-\$14 depending on final design
3. Lorne Julien - Mi'kmaw Artist - quote number not provided to Michelle by the time of the meeting - quote would be provided if we were interested in pursuing this style of mural.

Michelle has received a green light from the HRCE building team to be able to go ahead with the project.

HRCE Diversity Team would have to review the final proposal/design and approve.

The PTA (Parent/Teacher Association) is partially funding the mural (\$5,000). Michelle is looking into grants/ other funds to fund the remaining cost.

Points Raised by SAC members:

- Would there be a community/student engagement/consultation phase to generate ideas for mural content and/or get kids excited about the project? To survey stakeholders - what does the community mean to you?
- While a Mi'kmaq element (ex. including the name 'K'jipuktuk' (the great harbour)) would be lovely and so appropriate to acknowledge part of our province's heritage and reflect the vision of the school's vantage point looking down on the harbour, would choosing an artist who exclusively designed/ interpreted the school's project in a Mi'kmaq style of art be inclusive of and represent the Springvale students and community as a whole, especially with so many new-to-Canada families recently joining our community?

4. Any other business - none

5. Adjournment at 6:33pm

Next meeting: Tuesday April 15th, 2025, 6pm in the Springvale School Library.