



LeMarchant-St. Thomas
 SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC): Minutes

January 20th, 2026

Members Present

Member	Position	Email	Present	Regrets
Moira Cavanaugh	Principal	mcavanaugh@hrce.ca	Y	
Kim Gallivan	Vice-Principal	kgallivan@hrce.ca		X
Kathleen (Kat) Porta	Parent Rep	Supernurse.kat@hrce.ca	Y	
Damon Cunningham	Teacher	Damon.cunningham@hrce.ca	Y	
Kim Healy	Community Rep	kimehealy@gmail.com		X
Maureen Mitchell	Community Rep	Maureenmitchell0@gmail.com	Y	
Hideyo Kawashima	Parent Rep	Hideyo.kawashima@gmail.com	Y	
Karen Masry	Parent Rep	Masry.family@outlook.com	Y	
Adele Pellerin	Teacher	apellerin@hrce.ca	Y	
Pearl Michael	Community Rep	pearlamatheson@gmail.com		X
Zeeshan Sheikh	Parent Rep	Zeeshan.Sheikh@dal.ca	Y	
Erin Collinson	Teacher	ecollinson@hrce.ca		X
Jen LeBlanc	Community Rep	Jen.leblanc@dal.ca		X

Last Meeting November 18th, 2025

1. Review and approval of minutes

Minutes from the November meeting reviewed and approved

2. Additions of any other business to the agenda

3. Discussion of New Business

School photography

4. Administration Update & Student Success Planning Discussion

Theme of the Month is *Empathy*

December's Shopping Under the Stars raised approximately \$3,000. The funds will support the Grade 6 trip. Students were highly involved, particularly with gift wrapping

Literacy Week: January 27th –31st , with family reading invitations and lots of classroom activities

Staffing update

- Hillary MacInnis – replacing Kerry Woodley who is on deferred until September 2026.

Grades 4–6 musical rehearsals for Annie Jr. underway
Intramurals beginning (volleyball tournament with invited schools). Grade 5 soccer intramurals.

The Concours d'art oratoire French public speaking contest for Grades 5–6, begins with a school-wide competition, leading to regional and provincial events. Grade 6 students in Mr. Cunningham's class also participate. There will be a school wide speaking contest, those who win will go on to the regional fair and then the provincials.

Primary information session will be held January 29th at 6pm. This session will be for French immersion. Tupper and Inglis schools have been emailed about the session and to ask families to provide information about what they are planning to do next year, as February is registration month and planning for next year has begun.

Primary Orientation: May 14.

- SAC, Home & School, and Green Space Committee representatives will attend

Grade 5 Home Alone Program to be delivered in early February (funded by the Healthy School Grant)

Student success plan

Literacy:

- Early literacy screening for all French Immersion students in P–2 to establish baseline data. Teachers are providing data on student literacy performance. Support services are available for the majority, if not all, of the students.

Grade 6 Assessment Results:

- Math: 28 students exceeding expectations, 43 meeting expectations, 3 approaching expectations and 1 below ~ teachers involved in supporting students
- Reading: 18 students exceeding, 50 meeting expectations, 5 approaching and 2 students below expectation. Some students are EAL and supports provided for this. Results not split by English/French
- Writing: 26 exceeding expectations, 45 meeting, 4 approaching and no students below expectations
- Key takeaway- 95% at level of expectation

Behavior & Well-being:

- Lou's guide to great behavior was sent home for older grades. All grade 3–6 students met with Moira and Kim, who discussed the code of conduct and tested students on the LMST behavior guide. Students matched descriptions of behaviour to the behavior name. The term “insubordination” was less familiar, so it was emphasized. Overall, the message was that while students are doing well, there is always room for improvement.
- A single raindrop isn't much, but many can cause a storm; this analogy helped students see why it's frustrating when everyone isn't listening. Students pledged to work on this issue and emphasized doing the right thing even when no one is watching

SAC Conference (November 28)

- Attended by approximately 500 participants
- Topics included SAC mandates, expenditures, and panel discussions
- School lunch program highlighted as a critical support for student well-being and engagement. Teachers report the school lunch program is not just a program, but a means of communication. Some students come to school to eat and if there is no lunch program, some students may not show up and then teachers cannot connect with the students.
- Acknowledgement of child poverty in Nova Scotia and community outreach initiatives (e.g., sock drive, food drives, Hope Cottage visits)
- Health-Promoting Schools workshop emphasized LMST's privileged position compared to other schools.
- Innovation Fund opportunities discussed, revisited the stairwell mural idea

Question regarding plastic containers for the lunch program and allocating funding to provide school lunches for other schools: The plastic containers for lunch cannot be changed due to provincial policy. SAC cannot provide funding to other schools for student meals.

School Photographer

- Current contract (Pineapple) ends this year
- School will interview Pineapple, Lifetouch, and 1–2 additional photographers
- Interviews to be scheduled for the next SAC meeting
- February newsletter will inform families of the processes date for next meeting

3rd Tuesday of every month (excluding December and March)

October 21st – Cancelled

November 18th

January 20th

February 17th

April 21st

May 19th

June 16th