



LeMarchant-St Thomas  
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC): Minutes  
October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 4:30pm

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### Members Present

Moira Cavanaugh	Principal	<a href="mailto:mcavanaugh@hrce.ca">mcavanaugh@hrce.ca</a>
Emilie Tsirigotis	Vice Principal	<a href="mailto:eTsirigotis@hrce.ca">eTsirigotis@hrce.ca</a>
Steven Beya	Chair/Parent Rep	<a href="mailto:steven.beyea@dal.ca">steven.beyea@dal.ca</a>
Daniel Makhan	Vice Chair/Parent Rep	<a href="mailto:daniel.makhan@gmail.com">daniel.makhan@gmail.com</a>
Lindsay Gallivan	Secretary/Parent Rep	<a href="mailto:lindsgallivan@gmail.com">lindsgallivan@gmail.com</a>
Michael Zhang	Parent Rep	<a href="mailto:michael.zhang@smu.ca">michael.zhang@smu.ca</a>
Margo Chiasson	Teacher	<a href="mailto:mchiasson@hrce.ca">mchiasson@hrce.ca</a>
Sara McFarlane	Teacher	<a href="mailto:smcfarlane@hrce.ca">smcfarlane@hrce.ca</a>
Maureen Mitchell	Community Rep	<a href="mailto:maureenmitchell0@gmail.com">maureenmitchell0@gmail.com</a>
Maria Graham	Community Rep	<a href="mailto:maria_graham@me.com">maria_graham@me.com</a>
Martine Béland	Parent Observer	<a href="mailto:martine.beland@umontreal.ca">martine.beland@umontreal.ca</a>
Chris Stewart	Parent Observer	

### Regrets

Janine Hagerman	Teacher	<a href="mailto:jhagerman@hrce.ca">jhagerman@hrce.ca</a>
Jen LeBlanc	Community Rep	<a href="mailto:jen.leblanc@dal.ca">jen.leblanc@dal.ca</a>

### 1. Additions of any other business to the agenda

None.

### 2. Review and approval of June 2020 minutes

Small error in an attendee name that was listed twice. This error was corrected and the minutes were approved.

### 3. New Business

#### a. Cafeteria service/TINYfeast initial experiences and feedback:

Moira indicated the second round of orders have started and they are working to streamline the process with MC Food Services. All of the email communication includes instructions on how to sign up because orders need to be placed online and cannot be ordered the day of. Thus far there have been around 80 orders per day as opposed to the 120 orders placed per day last year. Meals are being delivered to the children's classroom during their designated lunch times.

b. *Delay of "Walking School Bus" initiative because of Covid-19:* Moira advised that this initiative will most likely be paused for this year as other HRCE schools are not participating. As such the

application for funding may be delayed a year and no new additional funds have been allocated for this year.

*c. Strategic/philosophy planning for 2020/21 SAC grant funds:* Moira stated that there is \$5,500 to spend this year to support student success and well-being. Discussion was held about the importance of ensuring it is used equitably across the student population while recognizing the enhancement of the student experience is more important than ever this year. It was also mentioned that these funds need to enrich the teacher's well-being and experiences as well. Last year the funds were used as gap filling for experiences during the new school transition. Moira gave a short overview of the SAC grant funds and the LMST student success plan which includes a literacy, math and a well-being goal. The goal of well-being has been incorporated in the Caring School Program curriculum which essentially includes a focus on seeing the behaviours we want in the students to help them navigate building healthy and positive relationships. Different ideas and initiatives were raised by committee members, such as the importance of arts a means for kids to have an outlet for expression. It was also noted that given it is such an exceptional year, and the additional stress on teachers to adapt to the new restrictions, this should be a consideration when determining where the funds should be allocated. It was acknowledged that there would be a need to go to the front line and get input from Moira and the teachers. There was a discussion regarding how to best create a range of experiences for the students and the question was raised if we should allocate funding to touch on all areas in a year (art, phys ed, stem, etc) or is it best to focus on one particular area per year. Moira suggested one idea could be to improve the school library which would help promote wellness as students could learn about differences of others, build a broader perspective, and promote diversity. Moira will seek feedback from teachers at the next staff meeting so that a decision can be made sooner rather than later. The question was raised as part of the discussion as to if the SAC has a philosophy or should develop a philosophy around the use of these funds that it wishes to promote. Daniel suggested that the committee look at establishing a framework to see where funds have been historically allocated to help everyone better understand where the funds have been distributed. Moira, Daniel and Steven will meet to further establish this framework and a draft will be shared at the next meeting.

## **5. Updates on old business**

- a. Update on previous discussion on revision of SAC bylaws, and makeup of the SAC*  
*Membership:* Moira looked into the option of amending the number of SAC committee members to include an additional parent representative. Moira was advised that the number of representatives on the committee cannot be changed. As such, Steve spoke with Martine and she will stay on the committee as an unofficial member but will not be counted as a parent rep.
- b. Feedback on school photos with Pineapple Studios:* Overall there was very positive feedback on the school photos with Pineapple Studios. The only minor issue was regarding the electronic file when parents were trying to print, but that issue was corrected. Moira said the Pineapple Studios contract is for 3 years and she believes they will be providing parents with a composite class photo.

- c. *Update on purchase of outdoor recess zone play equipment:* Moira advised that the play equipment has been purchased but had not arrived yet however should be arriving any day. Emilie explained that a slideshow was created for students on how to engage appropriately with the play equipment at each station such as rules around what to climb, and that the focus is on fun and not competition.

**6. Administration Update and Student Success Planning Discussion**

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION UPDATE: Moira said the theme this month is gratitude and thinking about how to be appreciative for what we have. October is also Mi'Kmaq history month so this has been a topic of discussion in all classes. There was a fire drill which the teachers knew about however the students were not advised. There are usually 3 fire drills in the fall and 3 in the spring. The school librarian has taken another position therefore the new librarian started October 15<sup>th</sup> and is transitioning into the role. There will be no Halloween walk-a-thon this year due to COVID. Instead this year there will be a read/dance-a-thon. Kids will be celebrating Halloween in their respective classes and are being told to come in costume and wear it for the day. Teachers have been given a small budget so they can purchase what they need for their class party.

STUDENT SUCCESS PLANNING DISCUSSION: Already discussed under new business item.

**6. Date for next meeting:**

November 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm