

# Bicentennial SAC Meeting

September 22, 2025

## In attendance

Ms. Webber, Bryony, Ingram, Brianne, Helen, Ed, Principal Hartlen, Pastor Mutale

Called to order at 6 PM

## Agenda

### Electing Chair and Secretary

Bryony (Chair) and Ed (Secretary) were acclaimed for the coming year

### Principal's Report

- Curriculum night was held before school started in order to help with first day anxiety. Kids got to meet teachers, see their classroom, etc ahead of time.
- Grade 6 provincial assessment will be held mid-October. When results are received, they will be shared with the SAC.
  - Based on a full year of Grade 5 work
  - Currently working through IPP (Individual Program Plan) and exemptions
- We have a new vendor for the lunch program this year: Upward Mobility
  - Feedback has been going back to the vendor through NS Lunch and we're already seeing some improvements.
  - Containers are improving. Less leaking, mess, etc.
- Currently building the SSP (Student Success Planning) team.
  - We can draw on resources from the HRCE in supporting younger teachers (mentoring, training, etc) through in class support.
  - Two Early Literacy Support Teachers in the school already supporting early grades
- SAC conference will be held Nov 28: Principal Hartlen and Bryony will attend
  - Full day conference including breakout sessions on subjects like building community
- Grade 8 assessment results came back from last year
  - Students are evaluated on a scale from 1 to 4, where 3 seems to indicate meeting or exceeding expectations.
  - Bicentennial scored above the provincial average
  - However, 22 students out of 70 were in levels 1 and 2
  - A meeting will be held Sept 23 to work on a plan for supporting students in levels 1 and 2

## Questions

- Is there a plan to help high-performing students to maintain or improve their performance?
  - Yes and no: we follow Universal Design for Learning (UDL) which includes a kind of tiered set of expectations for each assignment, so students can complete the minimum requirements to get base marks and those who want to go further can expand on their work.
  - There is often additional work that students who have finished early can take on
  - The practice of following UDL has improved significantly in recent years
- Is there a system for gathering feedback from elementary students on the lunch program?
  - Primarily through their teachers. We have class meetings after lunch to discuss things that are going on.
  - Principal Hartlen is spending time in both junior high and elementary lunch rooms
  - Principal and VP are both involved in lunch time
- Is there a breakfast program
  - Yes, it's run by the boys and girls club and is a grab and go program.
- What alternatives do we have for bringing more lunch monitors into the school?
  - We can't bring students from the high school over
  - We're exploring having grade 9s serve as extra eyes in the lunch rooms
  - There are high school students coming over to coach sports—we'll look at why there's a restriction on lunch monitoring
  - High school hires hall monitors—we'll see if we can leverage that somehow
- Elementary class reorganization: how does a situation like this happen?
  - In April, we get a budget based on the number of enrolled students.
  - When September rolls around, any students who enrolled over the summer need to be accommodated, which can require hiring new teachers.
  - This year, we were over the student cap in a number of classes, so we added a class.

## Garden Update (Brianne)

- We put a grant application together last year and received \$2000 for the garden to go toward equipment for kids (and one adult set), a water system, soil improvements
- Question: anything we can add to increase security of the water system, since it was stolen last year?
  - Yes, we'll need something more than the thick chain from last year.
  - Maybe a shed or some structure to contain it.
- A parent offered to donate lumber to rebuild the garden beds and students can build them in tech class. This is planned for the spring.

- Brianne is looking for help with procurement:
  - Ingram volunteers
- There isn't much of a structure to the running of the gardens so it would be good to have more hands on deck this year
- The garden is generally abandoned in the summer, so it would be good to involve the broader community
  - At Hawthorne, they had families sign up to maintain the garden for one week each over the summer
- Also, at Hawthorne, the harvest from the garden each year was used in a Stone Soup day, with students coming in to prepare the produce and all enjoy soup after
- Produce stand would be a good idea too
- Ingram volunteers to document the progression of the garden over the year in a photo essay (open to students to participate)

## SAC Funds

- \$5000 + \$1/student
- Funds can be spent whenever. They are delivered to the school account in November.
- School supplies will still be funded for next year, regardless of what the SAC funds go toward

## Farm to School Snack Program (Brianne)

- Every month, we purchase a locally-grown fruit or vegetable and distribute it to every student in the school
- Total cost last year was <\$1k
- Grant was provided for this last year, but it isn't available this year (it was a starter grant)
- Principal Hartlen says we can find the funds to support this again this year.

## Clocks

\* The lack of clocks in the school and the fact that students no longer carry phones continues to make it challenging for students to know the time throughout the day. Can we put clocks in the classrooms?

\* Yes. Principal Hartlen will order some.

## Innovation Grant

- We were made aware of the application in the second week of June last year and it was due in the 3rd week so we didn't apply

- We will hope to receive information at the sac conference in November and develop a plan for applying this year

## SAC Meeting dates for 2025/2026

- We will continue with Mondays at 6 PM
- Oct 20
- Nov 17
- Jan 12
- Feb 9
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.