

Ellenvale Junior High

School Advisory Council

December 10, 2024

Attendance - Scott Wadden, Adele Poirier, Michelle Doolan, Charmaine Willis, Efua Arthur, Sophie Mitchell, Denise Shellnut, Karen Mills, Cindy O'Handley, Margie Pike, Therese Boudreau-MacKinnon

1. **Approval of Minutes** - Denise Shellnut and Margie Pike

2. **Principal's Report** - see attachment

3. **Student Success Plan** - Literacy, Numeracy, Student Well-Being

Literacy - the focus has been on the grade 7 students working on comprehension strategies using mentor texts. It was discovered that students don't read for pleasure and only read to get the grades. Our next focus will be on comprehension strategies that will support independent reading which will hopefully lead to reading for pleasure.

Numeracy - the focus has been on providing students with exemplars to show what quality work looks like and to help them learn to think like mathematicians. The next focus will be on retrieval of previously learned material. Teachers are finding that they need to reteach topics when it comes up later on in other learning.

Student Well-Being - the focus has been on hallways safety and with teachers visible in the hallways more there has been an improvement since last year. The next step is to look at food insecurity. Through an anonymous survey it was discovered that 20% of our students don't eat breakfast or lunch, whether by choice or due to food insecurity. As a school we try to figure out who these students are and make sure they get food, but we are also looking at teaching students how to meal plan with minimal ingredients that will last days. This will be looked at in health classes and food study classes.

4. **New Business:**

- a) **Review of SAC Bi-laws** - if any changes are needed they can be discussed before the document is signed off on.
- b) **Finances** - Pretty consistently each year we get 3 grants: 1) SAC grant that the SAC determines where it should be spent . This year the money will be used to pay for substitute teachers to allow for teachers to program plan in support of our literacy, numeracy and student well-being goals. 2) Healthy School Grant which supports diversity and helping students connect to their school . This year the money will be used to buy more Black Lives Matter shirts and to purchase for the first time GSA clothing. At this time we don't need any orange shirts for

Indigenous students as we still have a lot left. These will be purchased when needed. This money will also be used to support guest speakers. 3) Student Support Grant which allows the school to fund field trips and other events that benefit the school population without parents having to pay for these experiences. There is a grade 8 FI field trip that will be paid for this week and other events/ trips are coming up. This money is not used for athletics as there is not a large enough population of our school who would benefit, that's why there is still a small athletic fee.

- c) **New Student Support Worker Framework** - there is a new framework that our student support workers will be following. This is a short cycle planning with a focus of 5-6 students only for a period of 6-8 weeks. This framework allows for more individualized programming for the students. The focus is on those students who need extra support, attendance, problem solving strategies, academics, office referrals, etc. Once the 6-8 weeks are up then another small group of students will be selected to work with. This plan is to allow more specific support to students.
- d) **Registration for 2025-26 school year** - This takes place the first of February and lots will be happening. Communication with the elementary and high schools have started as well as looking at class lists and configurations.
- e) **Cell phone and attendance policies review** - the cell phone policy is province wide and it seems to be going well for the most part in our school. Some students feel it's helped reduce their stress while at school, but there are still some who are not abiding by the rules and there have been consequences put in place. The focus with attendance is more on students arriving late for class or in the morning or after lunch. When a student misses the beginning of any class it is not only disruptive but the student missed important learning time. We know there are exceptions and those students are not penalized. The biggest issue right now are those students who go out for lunch and come back late for afternoon classes. The school runs a report every 2 weeks to show who is late. 5 lates in 2 weeks results in a detention, 10 lates in a 2 week period results in a ½ day in school suspension. We have seen an improvement when the student has these consequences.
- f) **Lunch monitors** - we are in need of more lunch monitors. Please pass the word around and have them reach out to Mr. Wadden.
- g) **Family Support** - the school right now will be supporting 20 families with \$200 Walmart gift cards where they can purchase food or other necessities.
- h) **Other** -
 - Innovation Fund** - anyone on SAC who is interested in participating on this committee inform Mr. Wadden by December 18th and then the group will meet in January. This is a great opportunity but it is a very detailed process. This is to work on a proposal for the 2025-26 school year. Margie will get more information for the group.
 - RBC Grant** - this is a program that provides money to a school if RBC employees volunteer at events for the school. Neety Coleman has arranged for

some employees to volunteer at some basketball games. The grant money(\$3000) will be used for the basketball program. Neety also mentioned they can do this again in the Spring.

Needy Families donations are welcome from community members if they are able to help out. Any money or gift cards can be provided to the school by Friday, December 13th to allow Mr. Wadden to contact the families in the last week before the holidays.

5) **Next meeting** - January 28, 2025

6) **Meeting adjourned** - 4:37pm