

**Ellenvale Junior High  
School Advisory Council  
January 31, 2023**

**In attendance** - Scott Wadden, Adele Poirier, Kelly Ing, Denise Chiasson, Tyrone Richards, Charmaine Willis, Karen Mills, Michelle Doolan, Margie Pike, Therese Boudreau-MacKinnon

1. **Approval of Minutes** - kelly Ing and Karen Mills

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

**Added information:**

-Breakfast Program Grants - we bought a new stove for the breakfast room to help support feeding students a healthy lunch when needed.

-Black Cultural Centre -Ms. Willis organized the gr 8 trips to the Black Cultural Centre

-Dance - Over Christmas we supported 12 families. The money we raise from the upcoming dance will go towards supporting school families in need.

3. **Student Success Plan:**

- a) **Student Well-Being** - teachers are present in the hallways, greeting students at the door and having light-hearted conversations with students which is creating good relationships. School is continuing to work on promoting a safe environment with the hands off policy.
- b) **Literacy** - the focus has been on grammar as we see students continue to need lessons on proper grammar use.
- c) **Numeracy** - Level 2 and 3 questions are being presented to our students more and teachers are focusing on conversations in the classroom about the higher level questions. The grade 8 math classes continue to be a focus with the Provincial assessments coming up in May.

4. **New Business:**

- a) **SAC Allocated Money** - The school bought 8 chromebooks at a cost of \$4000.00. Mr. Wadden did ask why they are so expensive when you can buy them at Best Buy for much less. The reply was that they are an older model. We have \$1000.00 of SAC money left. Over the summer our technology support will be inventorying the chromebooks to see which ones are actually working properly and to determine how many we actually have available to students.

b) **Modular Classroom Campus Update** - Still no news has been shared with Mr. Wadden's supervisor. Hopefully news will come soon with registration happening in February. Before the modular classrooms are set up there will be work done on our security system and phone system.

c) **Student Support Grant and Healthy Schools Grant - \$5449.00** - the money used to bus students to the BCC came from this grant

d) **Other:**

- **Registration Month** - February is registration month. There is no date yet for when Woodlawn High School will be coming to visit the grade 9 classes. Mr. Wadden and Mr. Gabriel will be going to Woodlawn High on Friday to set dates. Dartmouth High will be visiting the French Immersion classes on Thursday, Feb 2 and there is a parent meeting on Feb 9 at DHS. On Feb 9 at 6:00, Ellenvale will host a parent information session about the FI program. There will be a letter going home to parents with students in band and the FI program to see if their student(s) will be continuing in these programs. It will be important to have numbers as it will affect class configurations and scheduling. We will need to know this information prior to Spring planning. Ms. Chiasson offered for Mr. Wadden to share her email if parents have questions about the high school FI program and the IB program as she has experience with her children in both programs. Ms. Pike asked if there is any information shared with the gr 7 and 8 parents about the high school as it would be good to start talking to their children about this prior to gr 9. At this time there is nothing shared, but the school can look into it.

- **African Heritage Month - This year's theme is Seas of Struggle: African Peoples from Shore to Shore.**

Many things are happening around the school:

-Information is being shared to teachers for lessons.

- Information about prominent African Nova Scotians is being shared on the announcements each day.

-Ms. Willis has a group of students who will be taking part in the African NS trivia contest.

-The school is trying to get Ms. Simmonds (MLA and deputy Speaker) to come for a visit, although she just announced she is stepping down from those roles.

- Gr 9 classes are taking part in the 2023 ANS History Challenge

- We already had our gr 8 classes visit the BCC

- We are in the midst of planning to have Unity Group come on a weekly basis to do workshops with students through the music program. This will be in the form of spoken word, hip-hop, and/or dance but due to how busy they are it will probably not take place until March

**Next meeting - April 4th**