**Bedford South SAC Meeting – Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 6:00 pm (via Zoom!)**

**Attendance**

Helen Healy (Principal) Shauna Boudreau (VP)

Shelley Bembridge Sarah Rushworth (Chair)

Jane Taylor (VP) Adil Syed

Wenjing Wang Dayle O’Neil

Anthony Zadeh Tilak Arora

Sarah Rushworth (SR) opened the meeting and extended welcome to all

**Apologies**

Philip Okunaiya (offered post meeting)

**Administrative Report.**

Helen Healy (HH) presented the Administrative Report. She started with the SSP (Student Success Plan) goals of Math, Literacy and Student Wellbeing. These are key area which the school work towards through their curriculum. There is a monthly SSP meeting with teachers to ensure these goals of fluency in these areas are met.

Current goals including increasing reading behaviour at school as part of the Literacy support programme

Lunch monitors are staying for an extra hour to help support reading.

Parent volunteers also come to support reading at school.

It is Family Literacy week in January.

There will be a micro-survey for Grade 3, 4 and 5 to collate their views on school in response to the survey carried out at the end of last year. Areas highlighted were students not feeling safe in the playgrounds. This micro-survey aims to see if any progress has been made on this among other areas.

Staff continue to meet monthly for updates and learning.

Events – the Holiday concert was successful.

**WISH List**

SR went through the wish list and sent out a proposed plan to the committee at the end of last year. There are still 2 grades that have not submitted any wishes.

No products have been bought as yet.

This will be discussed again at the next staff meeting.

**Regional SAC Meeting**

SR and HH attended the provincial regional meeting for the CPA Schools. This was held at Broad St at the end of November. The main theme was to discuss the updated inclusive Education policy. It was agreed that the update was needed but additional support for teachers is still needed and trying to integrate this policy into Bedford South School will be a challenge due to the number of student who have additional needs on current staffing levels.

**School Photography**

The current contract with the school photographer ends at the end of this year. There are mixed reviews. The price point for photo packages is still high for some parents, the poses that children are asked to do appear unnatural and awkward as well. Positive notes were that there was a good variety of backgrounds to choose from and the photos were delivered in a timely manner. There is another photographer, Pineapple, that seems to offer possible cheaper packages and a good variety of photos but feedback suggested they were very slow to deliver these photos and this will be a problem for parents and school. School need photos of students in a timely manner for their log and will need these delivering soon for their system. We will continue the discussion about photos at the next meeting as we were cut short due to time constraints,

**Any Other Business**

**Additional Funding Letter.**

A letter has been sent , with a reminders to Ms Tomie at HRCE. SR received acknowledgement of this letter today. She has been told that the School Supervisor Isabelle Obeid would be in contact to discuss these concerns directly. SR spoke to Isabelle Obeid and circulated a separate update on that in November.

The school population continues to grow 19 students have been registered in January already (we are only on the 8th already) Since September 30th there has been a lot of transition of students leaving and students being registered -59 have come in, 27 have left. 98% of these students do not speak English. 10 classes are over the hard cap as well.

Although the numbers are being monitored there is no additional support for teaching staff with regards to EAL staffing .the Learning Centre has 3.3 staff allocated for support but more EAL staff are needed. Shelly Bembridge (SB) raised concerns that teachers are struggling with numbers and the increase of students with additional needs.

It was agreed that saying numbers will just continue to be monitored is not good enough hand this issue needs taking forward. There are a growing number of developments residentially and numbers will only continue to rise. IT was noted by Tilak Arora (TA) that previously new students who were from India were not classed as non English speakers. TA said that a lot of students are now from rural areas of India where they either have no school experience and speak very limited English. HH commented that many students from parts of Africa have undiagnosed medical and education needs which makes integration into school tricky and again have no English as well

SB suggested we invite our local MLA representative to our next meeting to help move this forward.

**Land Acknowledgement**

SR said in all other meetings and courses in Nova Scotia they always commence with a land acknowledgement. She would like to propose that we start future SAC meetings with such an acknowledgement especially as school has such a diverse community and this should be recognised. A vote was taken and was unanimous by member present to include a Land Acknowledgement going forward.

**NEXT MEETING -Tuesday 13th February 2024- 6pm via Zoom!.**

**Rest of the year meetings**

March – No Meeting - Spring Break

April 9th – IN PERSON meeting – 6pm in school

May – NO Meeting

June 11th – Meeting in conjunction with the HSA – 6 pm in school

An extraordinary meeting can be called in May if needed but none are scheduled.