Millwood Elementary School Advisory Council Meeting

April 10, 2024 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. / Virtual Meeting

**Type of Meeting:** Regular Business **Chair: Joanne Nolan** **Note taker: Nancy McNeil**

**Membership/Attendance:**

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| Parent Members | Community Members | Staff Members | Administration | |
| Joann Nolan (Chair)  Michelle Barnhill  Michelle Mackinnon (X) | Lynn Parsons (x)  Susan Harris (x)  Emily MacLeod | Traci George (x)  Angie MacAloney  Nancy McNeil  Nicole Wall (x)  Tanya Pottie (x) | | Michelle Andrews  (Principal)  Christine Richardson (x)  (Vice Principal) |

**Record of Decisions:**

| Agenda Items | Summary | I-Information  D-Decision  A-Action |
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| 1. **Approval of the Agenda/Approval of minutes**   Lead: Michelle | Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm  The meeting agenda was approved, as were the minutes from the February 21, 2024 meeting. | I  D |
| 1. **Items Brought Forward**   Lead: Joann | None at this time | I |
| 1. **Principal’s Report / SSP Update**   Lead: Michelle | Literacy and Math  Primary – Jen Copely, Literacy Coach was supporting our primary and grade one teachers, as well as our Grade One/Two teacher, by modelling lessons, team teaching and well as focusing on sound work and phonics. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development supports a systematic and focused approach to reading with a more structured curriculum, very explicit teaching and more thorough phonics instruction.  Teachers are focusing on how to implement these strategies and make their own phonics instruction more intentional.  MES recently received a significant shipment of decodable books from the DEECD to support phonics work in Grades Primary and One.  MES will have two Math Coaches working with our upper elementary grades with a particular focus on Grades Four and Five teachers beginning April 22. Grade Three teachers will also receive support from the coaches.  There will be a focus on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts, with students that are struggling placed into groups to receive targeted instruction.  The Provincial Grade Three Assessment will be written during the week of May 13-18. Ms. Richardson oversees the assessment and will be meeting with staff this week to discuss the upcoming assessment.  SAC funds have been used to support the implementation of the UFLI program. Magnetic letter sets have been purchased for the Primary and Grade One classrooms. Students use whiteboards during UFLI lessons, not pencil and paper.  Class Trips: The cost of school trips has increased significantly over the past number of years. Any school trips this year will be paid for by the school as there are funds available. However, there may need to be a small charge next year.  The Grade Primaries may have a guest visit them, the Grades Ones will either visit the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park or there may be a ‘Portable Farm’ visit the school. The Grade Five students are going to do their Ice Cream Walk and the Grade Two classes are exploring a trip to Uniacke House. | I  I  I  I |
| 1. **Wellness Update**   Lead: Christine | Our school created a bulletin board in our front hallway that looks like a tabletop and is titled “Come to Our Table”. It was our hope that families in our school community would share information and traditions about their culture through the role of food in their lives. A template for sharing was sent home to families. Unfortunately, the concept did not get much traction and there were very few contributions.  Ms. Young has created lessons on kindness, developing empathy and problem solving which she will be delivering to classes in the coming weeks.  A micro survey has been created for all students in Grades Primary-Five and will be completed in May.  The World Drumming Workshops that all students participated in on March 8 were very well received by students. | I  I  I  I  I |
| 1. **SOS**   Lead: Joann | Ms. Nolan asked about possible dates for the Grade 5 Closing as well as the Grade 6 Orientation at SHJH. The Closing will take place on June 21 and the Grade 6 Orientation will be June 13.  Staff Appreciation will be held April 15-April 19. Parents will provide little treats every day to show their thanks to MES staff.  Our Spring Fling will be held on Saturday May 25. Ms. Nolan has been compiling a wish list for parents who want to help. She has also created a separate Facebook group for the MES SOS. | I |
| 1. **Other Business**   Lead: Joann | N/A |  |
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**Next Meeting: June 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm**