

John Martin Junior High School Advisory Council
Currently looking for community members to join the SAC

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Minutes: October 23, 2025.

1. Attendance (names and positions held)

- Greg Brophy Principal
- Christine McKenna Vice-Principal
- Amanda Dowling SAC Chair (Absent)
- Diana Hatchette Teacher (Absent)
- Angela Murphy Parent
- Lisa MacKinnon Community Member
- Dawn MacDougall Teacher (Absent)
- Jeff Younger Community Member
- Lisa MacKinnon Community Member
- Michelle Garcia Schools Plus Community Outreach Worker (Absent)
- Jannat Jarin Grade 7 student representative (Absent)
- Frederick Onwubiko Grade 8 Student Representative (Absent)
- Lily Laravie Gordon Grade 9 Student Representative (Absent)
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2. Call to order: Call to order by Greg Brophy

Call to order time: 5:06 pm

3. Approval of agenda: Approval provided by SAC members:

- Greg Brophy Principal
- Christine McKenna Vice-Principal
- Amanda Dowling SAC Chair (Absent)
- Diana Hatchette Teacher (Absent)
- Angela Murphy Parent
- Lisa MacKinnon Community Member
- Dawn MacDougall Teacher (Absent)
- Jeff Younger Community Member
- Lisa MacKinnon Community Member
- Michelle Garcia Schools Plus Community Outreach Worker (Absent)
- Jannat Jarin Grade 7 student representative (Absent)
- Frederick Onwubiko Grade 8 Student Representative (Absent)
- Lily Laravie Gordon Grade 9 Student Representative (Absent)
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4. Approval of agenda: approved

5. Business arising from the meeting summary:

Student Report:

- Sports/Extra curricular
 - New equipment needed for badminton (shuttles)
 - New jerseys needed- funding needed toward team uniforms

- Funding for personalized jerseys
- Coaching- more coaches needed for skill development
- **Fundraising opportunities: can be discussed during ILT (Angela Murphy can support)**
- Water Fountains
 - Slow and warm
 - **Work order has been submitted**
- Cell Phones
 - Believe it is too restrictive
 - **Provincial Policy must be implemented**
- Bathrooms
 - Concerns regarding vandalism, cleanliness, soap dispensers needed, vaping, cameras outside of bathrooms, feminine products available in female washrooms
 - **Feminine products can be placed in the washroom, soap dispensers need to be placed in girls washroom**
- Concerns related to language used by students
 - Code of Conduct violations with language use
 - Code of Conduct consequences are no longer effective
 - **Consequences are issued based on the Provincial Code of Conduct**
 - **Student Athlete Contract in place**
 - **Sports fees introduced this year for sports teams**
- Concerns related to curriculum/teaching practices being used
 - **Support being provided by administration**

Principal's Report:

- Current enrollment at 301 students as of October 22, 2025.
- Class configurations:
 - 2 grade 6 classes
 - 4 grade 7 classes
 - 4 grade 8 classes
 - 3 grade 9 classes
- Reviewed Staff:
 - New and returning teachers to John Martin discussed
 - New admin assistant hired

Supports at JM|H include:

- 50% Junior High Intervention
- 100% Resource Teacher
- 100% Learning Centre Teacher & 50% Learning Centre Teacher
- Math Coaches
- Literacy Coach/Literacy Support Teacher
- 80% School Counsellor - (shared with Shannon Park - 20%)
- SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker
- SchoolsPlus Child and Youth Care Practitioner
- African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker - (Shared with BFEC)

- **Learning opportunities/additional opportunities being provided:**
 - NS Hot Lunch Program- introduced in October
 - Leadership distributing lunches daily
 - Lunch provided by Upward Mobility
 - More than half the school is ordering on NS Lunch website
 - Teachers will encourage students to set up accounts and order lunch before it closes next week
 - Our amazing Leadership students have taken on the role of facilitating our lunch deliveries in the breezeway between JMJH and BFEC each day.

- **Student Fees**
 - As in other years, students this year are charged nominal amounts for field trips and extra-curricular activities. We do this as the school can not afford to pay for all trips/activities. The amounts charged, in total, do not cover the cost of the event but simply offset the costs somewhat.
 - This includes sports teams this year. This year JMJH will be charging a fee for sports teams to cover the costs associated with those teams. The cost will vary depending on the cost of the events. Fees will be used toward the hiring of referees and other costs associated with the sporting activities.

- **Recent School Trips and Current Teams/Clubs:**
 - Grade 7 students attended the Milk Sports Fair - Oct 15
 - Mr. McCormick has taken our band students to Dalhousie Arts for a free concert. They were given the opportunity to go watch the dress rehearsal of the Reggae Roots Symphony Nova Scotia Concert at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium at Dal. Our students were able to attend the rehearsal and watch the symphony work with Jah'Mila and her band to put the concert together. Our students met with the conductor, got to do a Q&A session with Jah'Mila, and took pictures and talked with her afterwards!
 - Boys Soccer - playing
 - Girls Soccer - playing
 - Girls Volleyball - Team has been selected
 - Intramurals - ongoing - led by Mr. Sorensen
 - Student Leadership
 - Chess Club
 - Run Club
 - GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance)
 - Lunch Bunch
 - Pizza & Pi
 - Kitchen Brigades
 - Connect After 3

6. School improvement plan update

African NS Literacy and Numeracy Achievement Grant:

Hired a grant teacher by Sept 26, 2025 (25 days spread spread out 2-3 days per week)

- Identified and gathered baseline data of students to be supported - shared with Shawn Grouse by Sept 30, 2025
- Attended the PD session Oct 1, 2025
- Began working at JMJD 3 days per week targeting those ANS students who are “on the cusp” - achieving between 35% and 70%

Matrix of Expectations and Statement - discussed

Student Achievement:

We continue to work on our SSP goals Literacy, Math and Well-being

- Our Initial meeting with staff in September was to determine strengths and challenges in all 3 areas. A list was compiled for reference while creating our SSP goals.
- PD day (Sept 29) to discuss the data for RWM6/8 as well as classroom data and baseline data gathered since September. In doing this, teachers noticed the following:
 1. Math: Students were below benchmark in areas relating to percents, fractions and decimals. In these areas, teachers noted a propensity for the need for productive struggle to be incorporated within our student population. Students lack the confidence to try to persevere through difficult math concepts without being led by teachers.
 2. Literacy: Students were below benchmark in writing organization
 3. Well-Being - student responses on our surveys came back with a common theme - students do not care about one another.

Based on all of this, the following was decided upon:

1. Math - Teachers will co-create anchor charts with each classroom and have them posted on the walls. Students create their own anchor charts in their own notebooks to use when solving problems. Teachers will also co-create math word walls and post on the classroom walls or on the back of anchor charts.
 2. Literacy - Organization - Teachers will use mentor texts to explicitly teach specific text structures to organize writing.
 3. Well-Being - Build a sense of community - students are feeling they do not truly care about one another. In setting up classrooms and building learning activities around restorative approaches, we hope to foster a sense of community and unity in the building.
- Grade 8 Math continues to be a priority provincially. We are continuing to work to support our students with literacy and math coaches, support time, baseline assessments, etc.
 - Targeted instruction will evolve in relation to continually collected and analyzed classroom data.

7. Other business

- Teachers asking about \$100 for their classrooms - will we continue this year?
- Angela Murphy - Soccer Jerseys - inquiry

- Ice Cream Challenge - ILT - SAC Funds? (Approximately \$300)

8. Next meeting: November 20, 2025.

9. Adjournment: 6:00 pm