

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Minutes: November 20, 2025.

1. Attendance (names and positions held)

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

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:

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

5. Business arising from the meeting summary: N/A

Student Report:

- Sports/Extra curricular activities
 - Basketball and volleyball- going well
 - Students feel there is additional practice needed to be prepared for games

- Teams begin one month prior to the beginning of games when possible
- Halloween dance went well- music selection was great
- Running in the hallways
 - Hallway behaviour disruptive during instructional time
 - Students entering classes during instructional time

Principal's Report:

Report Cards

- Teachers are currently finishing the final touches on report cards (Assessment and Evaluation Day tomorrow.) They are slated to go home November 26th. Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled for Dec. 3 (4-6pm) and Dec. 4th (1-3pm).

Tech Ed Grant

- John Martin Junior High School has been selected to receive an EECD Tech Ed 9 Grant, facilitated by HRCE. This one-time 2025–2026 grant supports schools delivering *Technology Education 9* that are expanding or introducing hands-on, trade-related learning experiences. Your school's funding will be used to purchase or repair tools and equipment identified in your submitted Tech Ed Google Form that enhance students' hands-on, trade-focused learning.

Purchasing will take place in two ways:

1. Regional Purchase:
The Region will be purchasing a thickness planer and jointer for your Tech Ed learning space, plus will also provide mentorship for Tom to work with our Tech Ed Mentor Mark Wilkes.
2. School-Based Purchase:
We have approved \$ 2,000 to cover the cost of smaller materials to support *Tech Ed 9* programming, including small hand tools such as screwdriver sets, hammers, clamps, and a stationary sander.

All purchasing must be finalized by Friday, February 6th, 2026.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

- Our annual Remembrance Day ceremony was held on November 10 in our Gymnasium. It went very well.

Recent School Trips/Teams

- **Girls Soccer**
 - In their first competitive season, the girls earned an exciting **tie** and showed tremendous improvement from start to finish. With many players returning next year, and a coaching staff that has vowed to return next season, the future looks bright for this group!
- **Boys Soccer**
 - The boys had a **fantastic season**, finishing with a **4–1 regular-season record**. They battled hard in the semi-final, falling to a strong Astral team with a much larger player pool. Their commitment, sportsmanship, and teamwork made this a season to remember. This group has a strong core of returning players next year and optimism is very high as they strive to achieve their goal of winning regionals and securing a banner for JM!
- **Cross Country**

- Our **cross country athletes** represented John Martin Magic with pride, competing in both the **Sailor's Memorial** and **Regional Meets**. Two of our runners finished in the **top 100**, setting the stage for even more success during the **spring track season**.
- **Run Club**
 - We've also had a **very successful Run Club** this fall! Practices will continue to be offered on **Wednesdays and Fridays at lunch**, and all students are encouraged to come out, stay active, and challenge themselves.
- **Girls Volleyball**
 - The **girls' volleyball team** has been training hard and is currently competing! They have not won any games to date but are giving it their all!
 - We didn't have enough participants for a **boys' volleyball team** this year.
- **Basketball**
 - We are working to find a community member who would like to volunteer to work with our girls Basketball team this season. PE Staff would be able to offer support in planning and scheduling but any help from the community would be welcomed!
 - The boys basketball team has been practicing already for the season starting in January and is excited to begin another season. They have been invited to the JR.HIGH Kingfisher Classic Basketball Tournament at Sackville High Mon Dec. 8th-Wed Dec 10th.
- **Wrestling**
 - Mr. Sorensen is currently attempting to build a wrestling team here at JM/JH. As we do not currently have a qualified coach, he has had discussions with Mike Lidstone out of Tigers Wrestling, who is one of 3 competition development trained coaches in the province, and he has agreed that he would be able to allow our participants to join his training sessions and help with the coaching. This is still in the preliminary stages.
- **Field trips**
 - The Learning Centre recently took our LC students to the Halifax Shopping Centre via Metro transit to work on various individualized outcomes - *Dawn to speak about this*
 - SchoolsPlus has invited 15 students from the Multicultural Club to attend a curling bonspiel on the morning of November 24. They will leave near the first bell and travel by bus to the Scotiabank Centre and come back for afternoon classes. They will be attending the Montana's Canadian Curling Trials Draw 6. The top eight men and women curling teams from Canada are competing to see who goes to the Olympics for Canada in 2026. Michelle Garcia, Marina Clyde, and I will be chaperones.
 - SchoolsPlus- Indigenous cooking experience in October
 - MacPhee Centre
 - Intervention teacher took a small group today for tour and artwork
 - ANS SSW and School Social Worker took a small group for tour

- Intervention Teacher- weekly weight lifting sessions at Dartmouth High School with small group of students
- **Holiday Turkey Dinner - Dec 17, 2025**
 - On Dec 17, we will be having our Annual Holiday Turkey Dinner here at JMjH. Students will be served turkey dinner starting late morning and ending just before lunch. Students will be eating in the gym, the library and in select other areas.
 - NS Power to do a financial donation (\$2000 -\$2500) to cover costs - Awaiting confirmation
 - O'Reagan's Auto Group to contribute turkeys
 - Parkside Pub will cook the meals
 - *Jeff Younger* will inquire if the Sheriff's office can serve the meal for students

6. School improvement plan update

Student Achievement

- We continue to work on our SSP goals Literacy, Math and Well-being (**put up on LCD**)
- We have now completed our first cycle of SSP and the results are as follows:

Cycle 1 Goals and Strategies:

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.

Cycle 1 RESULTS

Math

Grade 7

- Most frequent on task behaviours were working with friends, writing their own notes, and using notes to solve problems.
- Students are demonstrating increased independence when faced with an unfamiliar question.

Grade 8

- Students are using their notes frequently, more often than using the anchor charts.
- Students determine what goes on the anchor chart.
- Frequent use of math vocabulary during specific units. (Hypotenuse, Square Roots, Positive/Negative)

Grade 9

- Baseline data: 901 has most people asking for help, some students are too hesitant to ask for help when required. Some students did skip questions to focus on the ones they knew first.
- Students are taking notes and using them during assessment.

Alt. Location

- More frequently asking for help than in the classroom.
- Students ask for help, but are redirected to the anchor charts.

Literacy:

Students able to sequence information **independently**:

601 all students demonstrated

602 - 14/17

701 - 17/18

702 - 13/17

703 - 22/25

704 13/16

Grade 8 and 9 - The majority of students are able to write in sequential order. Their writing has a clear beginning, middle and end. Their paragraph writing flows for the reader.

Well-Being

As compared to the last 2 years, we are seeing proportionally fewer incidents of Bullying, Cyberbullying, Insubordination, Physical Violence, Sexual harassment and Verbal abuse.

As compared to other years, we have seen proportionally more incidents of Discriminatory Behaviour and Racist Behaviour. We believe that this is due to the push from administration to address and record ALL incidents of Racism and Discrimination occurring in the school.

Since the end of October, we have seen a decrease in the number of incidents of both being referred to the office each week.

- The majority of these incidents occurred in early October with the number of these types of incidents decreasing as the term went on.
- Students with whom we have addressed issues of Racist and Discriminatory behaviour do not tend to have subsequent incidents.
- Physical Aggression and Physical violence have both decreased dramatically since mid-October.
- Threatening Behavior and Verbal Abuse should be a focus **going forward (conflict resolution)** as they are on track to surpass the numbers for September and October.

Cycle 2 Strategies - (Tentative - to be finalized at next staff meeting (Nov 25th)

Continue with Cycle 1 and add these...

Math

- Math support teachers will preteach fraction adding/subtracting skills prior to grade 8 fraction unit (Marina, Al, Joanne, Sierra divide students so they are less shocked when they see it in class)

Literacy

- Literacy teachers will focus on the skills surrounding writing transitions in student writing

Well-Being

- Continue with restorative practices
- Student Survey (teacher designed) (at start and end of term to examine relationships guide cycle 2.)
- Incorporate Relationship building into HL and ILT with a focus on relationships and conflict resolution.
- Classroom Presentations CM and GB (Big 4)
- Roll our REWARDS Program (Currency)

African NS Literacy and Numeracy Achievement Grant

- Recap - Hired a grant teacher by Sept 26, 2025 (Sierra Vigliarolo) (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 JMJB 3 days per week targeting those ANS students who are “on the cusp” - achieving between 35% and 70%
- Update - Sierra continues to work with us and will do so until the Winter Break.

7. Other business

- Report cards to go home Nov 26th, 2025.
- SAC Conference Nov 28th, 2025.
- SAC Proposal from Sam McCormick- request to purchase Alesis Blaze Max 7pc Electric Drum Set to increase learning opportunities for all students enrolled in the band program. Approved by SAC through vote
- Grade 9 end of year trip options discussed:
 - Boat Cruise? Atlantic Splash Adventure? Waterpark adventure? Harbour Hopper?
 - Splashifax? Comfortability with swimming would be necessary
 - Other end of year trip options to be discussed by students and staff
- Classroom teacher grants of \$100 per classroom (6-8 teachers)
- HeadStrong Summit: CYCP, ANS SSW, Community Outreach Worker- select 10 grade 8 students and will complete a mental health/wellness project (wellness fair) the following year to connect student wellness and community.
- Halifax Hoopers- partnership. *Dawn MacDougall* to facilitate it.
- Michelle Garcia connected with the Police Basketball Team. Will occur in December at JMJB gym. Michelle Garcia will connect with Sportsplex to see if this is a possibility. Game will be live streamed from either location to JMJB students.
- Team bonding events for badminton. *Lily to look into this*. Will report back to SAC in January.

8. Next meeting: January 22, 2026.

9. Adjournment: 6:07 pm