

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Minutes: January 22, 2026.

1. Attendance (names and positions held)

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

2. Call to order: Call to order by Greg Brophy
Call to order time: 5:02 pm

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| • Greg Brophy | Principal |
| • Christine McKenna | Vice-Principal |
| • Amanda Dowling | SAC Chair |
| • Diana Hatchette | Teacher |
| • Angela Murphy | Parent (Absent) |
| • Lisa MacKinnon | Community Member |
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4. Approval of agenda: approved

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

Student Report:

- Sports/Extra curricular activities
 - Badminton-going well
 - New racquets and shuttles
 - Tryouts taking place for Badminton Teams
 - Students feel sport is being viewed in a more positive light
 - Student assessment has improved in Phys Ed
- Jazz Band

- Afterschool programming
- Newly purchased drum kit- provides practice for all students, even those beginning to learn percussion
- Request to purchase a second drum kit for band
- Debate Team
 - Request that a debate team be created. Leadership will put this on announcements and explore further.
 - Teacher volunteer required
 - SchoolsPlus can be volunteer to facilitate Debate Team
- Student Leadership Team- expanding to include grade 7 students
- Concerns:
 - Bathroom vandalism
 - Respect for teachers has decreased in the classroom environment, resulting in increased behaviours in the classroom environment
 - Swearing/inappropriate language has increased:
 - More noticeable during transition times
 - Otis Day to provide equity training to staff and a student led equity team will be created in time
 - BFEC students/community members smoking- smoke entered through the air exchanger

Principal's Report:

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.
- 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.
- JMJD has purchased: a Ryobi drill, clamps, class set of working gloves, bundles of screws and nails, measuring tapes, whistles, and drill bits. We have spent \$703.99 so still have a balance of \$1269.01 of the grant money.

Painting

- Our main foyer will be receiving a fresh coat of paint on Jan 22/23.
- This is in preparation for a mural to be painted in the main lobby to better reflect our school community.
- Students will be polled as to what it should look like.
- Our ANSSSW - Kristen Berglund - will be working with our ANS students to determine what themes will be a part. Once that is determined, we will seek the assistance of a local artist to complete the mural. Other murals will come to other parts of the building in the future.
- Our gym is also slated for a freshen up as is our building exterior (both over the summer months.)

Volleyball donation

- The Dartmouth Brawlers are donating to the school free of charge (through SportNS): New poles, safety pads to go around the poles, out of bounds antenna, and velcro straps to hold the antenna and a new net

Recent School Trips/Teams

Basketball Season Officially Underway

- The **official basketball season** has begun for both our boys' and girls' teams. Practices and games are ramping up, and our student-athletes are continuing to demonstrate commitment, teamwork, and growth both on and off the court. Our boy's team has played in 2 tournaments and managed to finish in 2nd place at the Cole Harbour invitational. We're looking forward to a competitive and rewarding season ahead.

Run Club

- Our **Run Club continues to grow**, with more and more students joining each week. There are **plenty of opportunities to participate**, and all students are welcome to join us on **Wednesdays and Fridays at lunch**. Whether students are training for competition or simply looking to stay active, Run Club remains a cornerstone of our school fitness culture.
- We have a school Run club and Strava group set up and would encourage all our student athletes who are interested in any form of athletics to join:

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/1832539>

Badminton

- We're excited to announce that **badminton tryouts will begin later this month**. This is a great opportunity for students of all experience levels to get involved in school sports, develop new skills, and represent the Magic. More details regarding dates and times will be shared soon.

Wrestling

- The **wrestling club is also still underway** and continuing to build momentum. Student interest and engagement have been encouraging, and we're excited to see this program grow as athletes develop confidence, strength, and new skills on the mat.

Athletics Website!

- We're thrilled to announce the launch of our **new JMjH Athletics website!** This site will serve as a central hub for all things Magic Athletics. You are able to access it via our school web page or by clicking the link below: <https://sites.google.com/gnspes.ca/jmjh-athletics/home>

Field trips

Headstrong

- January 13th- A group of students attended a mental health Summit called Headstrong which was at the HRCE building. They were accompanied by our African Nova Scotian student support worker, our Child and Youth care Practitioner and our SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker. Students got a chance to learn about mental health, share stories, participate in activities, listen to a panel discussion, listen to guest speakers and talk about their own struggles with mental health. And of course, the students got their bellies full with a great lunch/snacks provided to them, along with sag bags!

Band Trip

- Our students have already gotten to see Jah'Mila perform with symphony Nova Scotia earlier this school year, and that trip was a huge success. Students still reference it, and we still analyze the music performed there in class. This opportunity is one I'm very excited for, and lets us explore some of the music performed there in class afterwards to a greater depth.

"In honour of African Heritage Month join the Museum and Joy Bullen for Celebrations and Revelations, a concert featuring award-winning artists Jah'Mila and Julian Taylor. The concert will bring music, heritage, identity and storytelling together with two artists whose work speaks to migration, memory, belonging and the power of song. A rare opportunity for Atlantic Canadian classrooms to experience award-winning Black artists for FREE."

Holiday Turkey Dinner - Dec 17, 2025

- On Dec 17, we had our Annual Holiday Turkey Dinner here at JMJB. Students were served turkey dinner starting late morning and ending just before lunch. Students ate in the gym, the library and in select other areas.
- NS Power did a financial donation (of \$2500) and cooked for us all
- O'Reagan's Auto Group contributed turkeys
- Parkside Pub and Eatery cooked our turkeys and made gravy for dinner.

6. School improvement plan update

Student Achievement

We continue to work on our SSP goals Literacy, Math and Well-being
We have completed our first cycle of SSP and we are on to our second cycle.

Cycle 2 Strategies

Continue with Cycle 1 and add these...

Math

- Teachers will start with concrete manipulatives to help solidify the understanding of fractions.
- Teachers will co-create anchor charts with students
- Math support teachers will preteach fraction skills prior to grade 8 fractions unit (Marina, Al, Joanne, Sierra divvy up students so they are less shocked when they see it in class)
- Teachers will have a slow release responsibility with scaffolded work where we transition from pictorial representations to symbolic.
- Teachers will facilitate cross-curricular collaboration to enhance understanding of fractions in real-world applications.

For our ANS/Indigenous students who are not at 75% in number and measurement, we will have the following tier 2 interventions:

- ANS/Indigenous Students who have been identified as not meeting expectations in Math 8 will receive targeted tier 2 or 3 instruction based on their individual needs.
- Individual Support Plans will be drafted for those students and implemented for the cycle and assessed for effectiveness throughout and at the end of the cycle.
- Intensive tier 2 (small group) or 3 (individual) math support from our math specialist teachers will be allocated to those specific students.

By the end, students will...

- Be able to solve fraction problems independently and use anchor charts independently.
- Be able to apply fraction skills in other course areas such as foods, science, tech ed, cooking with Intervention, etc.

Length of time to complete the fraction unit will also be an indicator of success.

Literacy - Focusing on the use of appropriate transitional words/phrases is our focus for cycle 2 (measurable and area that needs development.)

- Teachers will begin with scaffolding/explicit teaching of transition and organizing tasks.
- Next, teachers will gradually release responsibility by having students independently use anchor charts, reader supports in classrooms when completing writing activities.
- Although the focus will be on transitional words/phrases, teachers will be continuing their work on helping students understand paragraphing through explicit instruction and using mentor text.
- By the end, students will be able to independently use grade-appropriate transition words to organize their writing into paragraphs with relevant supporting details.

Well-Being

- Continue with restorative practices
- Incorporate Relationship building into HL and ILT with a focus on relationships and conflict resolution.
- Classroom Presentations CM and GB (Big 4)
- Team-building activities with fine arts specialist
- Cooking groups with queer students
- Wellness walks
- Development and implementation of both student and staff Equity Teams.
 - Dec 9 - STAFF Training w Otis Daye
 - Early January
 - Level 1 training with new staff
 - Level 2 training with experienced staff
 - Equity Blitz with students.

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 JMJD 3 days per week targeting those ANS students who are “on the cusp” - achieving between 35% and 70%
- Update - Sierra will finish this month.

Other Business

7. Other business

- N/A

8. Next meeting: February 26, 2026.

9. Adjournment: 6:00 pm

