

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Minutes: February 26, 2026.

1. Attendance (names and positions held)

- Greg Brophy Principal
- Christine McKenna Vice-Principal
- Amanda Dowling SAC Chair (Absent)
- Diana Hatchette Teacher
- Angela Murphy Parent (Absent)
- Lisa MacKinnon Community Member (Absent)
- Dawn MacDougall Teacher (Absent)
- Jeff Younger Community Member (Absent)
- 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: 5:10 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
- Angela Murphy Parent (Absent)
- Lisa MacKinnon Community Member (Absent)
- Dawn MacDougall Teacher (Absent)
- Jeff Younger Community Member (Absent)
- 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

4. Approval of agenda: approved

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

Student Report:

Extra curricular activities:

- Extra curriculars: basketball girls and boys teams
- Boys badminton team has been posted
- Girls Badminton team to be listed on Monday, March 2
- Girls flag football begins prior to March Break to prepare for the tournament on April 19th, 2026.
- Hockey intramurals for Olympics competition happening

- Request for debate team- student leadership is seeking a debate team advisor and will update at next SAC meeting

Concerns

- Evacuations required as a result of gas leaks and recent fire are an interruption to learning
- Behaviour outside during evacuations between students needs to be addressed

Principal's Report:

New Staff

- Maragaret Casey - our new EAL teacher shared with BFEC (80%/20%)
- Aaron Jackson now 100% DHS

End of Term Two

- Students and teachers are now in the final weeks of term 2.
- Grades to be finalized within the next few weeks (A&E day March 13, report cards home March 23 - April 2nd.
- Progress Conferences April 1st (evening and 2nd afternoon).

Painting

- Our main foyer has been painted. Students and families were 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.
- We will be working with the MacPhee Centre to complete the mural (approximately \$2500). 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.)

Fire Evacuation Yesterday

- The motor in the air exchanger in the breezeway seized (due to heavy dust) yesterday causing smoke to flow into the breezeway and into the upper floor. The school was evacuated and the Fire Department called. They found the source of the smoke and gave the all clear to re-enter after 35 minutes. Repairs to the air exchanger have been completed. A work order to clean the area has been submitted.)

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.

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 and Other Opportunities

Band Trip

- Lily to speak about

Wellness Walks

- Students have been going on wellness walks as part of our Well-Being initiative for SSP

Ski Trip

- Our students will be on a ski trip to Ski Martok on March 26th.
- The cost to students is \$50. Grade 8 and 9 students will have priority.

Buddy Daye Institute Visit

- Kristen Berglund (our ANSSSW) had a large group of students join a member of the Buddy Daye Learning Institute on Monday morning.
- To take part in a session called "Talk to Me Nice." This session used music and real conversation to talk about confidence, respect, and how we speak to ourselves and others. playing short, clean clips from songs to spark discussion about self-worth, boundaries, growth, and what respect looks like in their view.
- Students discussed how words can build someone up or tear them down. focusing on how to flip common negative phrases into positive ones and create short affirmation lines that we can put together and say over some instrumental music. The goal was to help students think about how they want to be spoken to and how they choose to speak to others.

Grade 9s to DHS

Our grade 9s will be going to see Sherlock Holmes at DHS next Wednesday

What is the show about?

- *This is a high school adaptation of the stage play of Sherlock Holmes. The story centres around a missing packet of love letters that were sent by the Prince of Bohemia to a common girl he was in love with. Holmes has been hired to track them down so they won't cause any embarrassment, but his arch nemesis Professor Moriarty hopes to find them first so that he can use them to start a World War!*

Police vs Boys Basketball Game (was today)

- HRP officers were in the building to play our boys basketball team today. Each player had 4 tickets to give to friends to view the game. A great time was had by all.

Lockdown Drill - February 20th - completed

- Issues - Two teachers did not ensure the classroom doors were locked. Discussed with staff and HRP.

Teacher Professional Development

- Development and implementation of both student and staff Equity Team underway.
 - Dec 9 - STAFF Training w Otis Daye - completed
 - Early January
 - Level 1 training with new staff - Completed
 - Level 2 training with experienced staff - upcoming
 - CRP Training with Staff - upcoming as well
 - Equity Blitz with students - in the planning stages.

6. School improvement plan update

Student Achievement

Student Achievement - we will discuss at the next meeting after our cycle has concluded.

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 JM JH 3 days per week targeting those ANS students who are “on the cusp” - achieving between 35% and 70%
- Update - Sierra has completed her time here and a report was submitted to HRCE with 3/7 grade 6 students achieving level 3 or higher and 9/29 Junior High achieving level or higher. 3 JH students did not achieve due to chronic absenteeism and 4 JH students through refusal to participate.

Other Business

7. Other business

- N/A

8. Next meeting: April 23, 2026.

9. Adjournment: 5:45 pm