April 29th, 2021

***John Martin Junior High School Advisory Council Minutes:***

In Attendance: Joe MacDonald, Kyle Sarka, Diana Hatchette, Dawn MacDougall, Elizabeth MacPherson, Robyn Gorman and Diana Quinn

Regrets: Candace States and Tianna States

* Mr. MacDonald thanked the School Advisory Council for meeting and for all that they have done to support the school community
* Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Sarka shared the amazing job that teachers have been doing despite the transition to at-home learning

Updates:

* The pre-primaries housed at John Martin will transition to John MacNeil, and the current grade 5’s from John MacNeil will transition to John Martin for the 2021-2022 school year.
* Due to the ongoing pandemic, transition for all incoming grade 7’s (and 6’s from John MacNeil) will be adapted. Ms. Hatchette, Mr. Warren and Mrs. Galante-Ward are creating a video to share with incoming students and their families that includes all staff and the physical building itself. A letter describing further details related to transitions will be sent to all feeder schools (Harbour View, John MacNeil and Shannon Park) shortly.
* John Martin is projected to have 11 homerooms in the 2021-2022 school year that include 236 students. Staff allocation has not been provided yet.
* The Student Intervention teacher will now be site based at John Martin. This is a valuable resource that will be welcomed full time in our school community.
* Online learning: Estimates indicate around 80-85% attendance across all grades. All staff share that this experience is positive and students are engaged. Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Sarka described how the Code of Conduct continues to apply in the online community.
* Mr. MacDonald extended an enormous thank you to the SAC members for approving funding that enhanced the classroom and school climate at John Martin. Students were highly involved in this process and data has begun to indicate that students are engaging more in their learning and are investing more pride in their school community.

Finances:

* The SAC approved an upcoming project targeted at painting the school washrooms and providing approved hygienic products for students.
* Mr. MacDonald reported having approximately $7000 in funding remaining for this academic year. Discussions are occurring concerning whether or not these funds will be rolled over to the 2021-2022 school year due to the pandemic.
* Mr. MacDonald shared that the art room may require resources and the science lab required updating.
* Elizabeth MacPherson shared that there is a grant received by another school site that would support Ms. Hatchette in purchasing sewing machines.
* Mr. Sarka thanked the SAC for their contributions to the school community and all the members for offering their time. He mentioned a number of grants received by the school community (Healthy School Communities, etc.) that have been disbursed and used in ways that promote growth and achievement in the student population.
* Mr. MacDonald closed the meeting by thanking all John Martin staff for their dedication to learning and to the overall school community.

***The next meeting is scheduled for May 27th, 2021.***