June 17th, 2021

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

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

Regrets: Joe MacDonald, Diana Quinn, Michelle Pelley, Candace States and Tianna States.

* Mr. Sarka thanked the School Advisory Council for meeting and for all that they have done to support the school community
* Mr. Sarka shared the amazing job that teachers and students have been doing since the transition back to in-class learning

Updates:

* Schedules for next year are complete and have been approved.
* Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is projected to be 235 students, which includes 2 grade 6 classes, 3 grade 7s, 3 grade 8s and 3 grade 9s
* Most transition meetings with our feeder elementary schools and DHS are complete. There is one more meeting regarding an individual student coming into grade 7
* 3 of our Learning Centre students were able to go for a tour at Dartmouth High School. One more student will have the chance to do the same next week.
* Some transitions and possible tours of John Martin Junior High School for new grade 6 and 7 students will occur in late August, dependent on public health protocols.
* We have a plan in place to celebrate the grade 9 students’ success as they prepare to leave for high school. On the morning of Monday, June 28th, all grade 9 students will come to the gym to receive certificates of achievement. To ensure we follow public health protocols, grade 9 cohorts will be distanced, and grade 9 students will come to the stage individually to receive their certificates and/or awards. The rest of the school community (grades 7 and 8) will attend the ceremony from their own individual classrooms via zoom.
* Staffing updates: Ian Stewart is the new VP for the 2021-2022 school year. Carly Brison is coming from John MacNeil to teach grade 6 at JMJH, Maureena Clyde will be our new Resource teacher (coming from Prince Andrew High), Scott Bakker will fill our additional 100% Learning Centre position, Angela MacDonald will be our new grade 7 ELA/SS teacher. Remaining unfilled positions are: grade 6 classroom teacher and Tech ed/Phys Ed/SS position. We are hoping to fill those positions during term hiring process.
* EPA staffing is an ongoing process. We will have 7.5 EPA positions at John Martin for the 2021-2022 school year.

Future Initiatives for the 2021-2022 school year:

* We have joined with The McPhee Centre and HRM in an effort to create a mural on the concrete wall located on Robert Burns Drive. Our grade 9 citizenship students will participate in this collaborative effort, along with Ms. McKenna, Ms. Hatchette, HRM and the McPhee Centre. More details to come in September.
* Citizenship and Science teachers are collaborating to create some gardening projects for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Ms, MacLeod, Ms. Nkala, Ms. McKenna, and Ms. Grosicki are looking to garden inside and outside of the building. We have recently purchased a greenhouse that will be used in this effort.
* Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Sarka have plans to begin upgrading the landscaping of the school grounds. Mr. Stewart will be involved in this as well. More details to come in September.
* Science lab needs to be updated. Some purchases were made in previous years but some of the structural items need to be updated for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. There will be integrated learning in all student/teacher schedules, which will involve collaborative, cross-curricular projects. An upgraded science lab will be beneficial to the success of this new curricular aim.
* Mr. Sarka thanked the SAC for their contributions to the school community and all the members for offering their time.