

Oyster Pond Academy -- SAC Meeting
February 24, 2021 6 p.m.

In attendance: John Verlinden (Chair), Barb Gromick (Principal), Kelly Hale (Vice Principal), Margo Humphrey, Ryan Richards, Aaron Zinck, Matt Coolen, Heidi Fraser and Sam Holmes

Black Students Lives Matter – Inclusive Learning

Staff and administration have been creating and implementing a customized-to-OPA inclusive education action plan, guided by the Halifax Regional Centre for Education inclusive education policy.

The plan is focused on the guiding principle: to use evidence of students' strengths and challenges to determine a system of support and monitor the effectiveness for those supports.

Actions currently underway include:

- Using disaggregated math and literacy data to understand if our students who have self-identified, are underserved, have socio-economic indicators, or technology access limitations are meeting literacy and math learning goals.
- Adding more books to the library and classrooms to ensure we have more representation of cultures in students' instructional and reading materials. The goal is to provide opportunities for minority students to see their own cultures represented and more exposure for all students to see diversity.

SAC Funding supports technology upgrades

SAC funding for the 2020-21 year is being used to support upgrading and purchasing new technology which was felt to be particularly important during the pandemic. The goal was to support students in becoming comfortable with online learning platforms and ensure teachers had access to the technology to support both in classroom use of technology and to be prepared in the event of home-based learning. Equipment purchases include:

- a significant investment in new Chrome books (Grades 2-6) that reduces the requirement for sharing, and increases each classroom/students' access to the laptops
- iPads for Primary/Ones
- document cameras for all classrooms which are also equipped with recording abilities to support on-demand learning, if needed in the event of home-based learning
- equipping teachers' desktops with webcams; and
- new speakers for classrooms that required an upgrade.

Literacy:

SAC funding will also support purchasing more Fountas and Pinnell book kits (level readers) to support guided reading; a proven strategy to support early readers in literacy progress.

Future Required purchases:

The school is seeking SAC's support in exploring external funding sources to support the purchase of:

External Security Camera: New external security cameras are required to help keep watch on the property, particularly off-hours to help prevent vandalism. We have a quote and will explore external funding sources to help purchase this.

- Action: John to approach Kevin Murphy for security camera.

Gymnasium Curtain: The curtain in the gym needs to be replaced or repaired.

- Action: Sam to explore grants for curtain.

Home and School Update:

The Home and School continues to explore creative ways to increase school spirit despite the COVID-19 restrictions. This includes offering ice cream social's by providing individually wrapped ice cream sandwiches for holidays like Halloween and Valentines; and most recently hosting a socially distanced winter carnival throughout Feb/March.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:10 p.m.