

CDS SAC Minutes

May 10, 2023

present: Johnette Thompson, Christine Dickson (arrived 6:20), Sheila Campbell (arrived 6:35), Moira Peters, Nicky Smith, Millie Robinson, Denise Hilchie, Veronica Singer, Joslyn Paige

Meeting called to order 6:03pm by Nicky.

Meeting agenda approved by Veronica.

Correction to minutes: Denise was at the April 5 meeting.

Minutes approved by Joslyn.

Business arising from the minutes:

- Nicky replied to CCRCE Tina Knol's response to our SAC letter about three-grade classes. In Nicky's reply, she stressed that CDS SAC wants our catchment area to be respected.
- Millie informed us that the staffing for next year has already been declared. CDS will have one three-grade classroom (P-1-2). The younger the kids, the more difficult to have three grades in one room because it's harder for young kids with shorter attention spans to work on their own while teachers are instructing another grade level.
- It is better for us to have an in-house gym teacher — the kids get more gym time this way.
- [Christine arrived.]
- Not sure how much can be done about the catchment issue. People can apply to go to whichever school they want.
- MathUP was not designed for three-grade classrooms.
- When CDS had 68 students the school had four teachers.
- Three grades in a classroom compounded with inclusive classes with different learning and behavioural abilities makes it difficult to teach kids. This would also be the case with two grade curriculums. Split grades is nothing new. Once you get into triple grades, it gets tough.
- Don't think parents are aware of just how hard it is. If people had the opportunity to know this, they would understand the situation teachers at CDS are in and that alone would reduce the stress on teachers.
- Math with three grades is especially challenging.
- Millie will try to tackle making things manageable by tweaking scheduling next year — taking small groups aside at times to leave the teacher with a more manageable load.
- Let's keep this conversation going, even though we're at the end of the year.
- [Sheila arrived.]
- Is it worth it to see what other triple-grade schools are doing/thinking?

Let's spend some money! In order of priority:

1. Thelma Gregan recommends decodable books. It costs \$1500 for a classroom set of 4 different levels.
2. Butterfly kits for science: \$250 for two sets.
3. \$200 for agricultural learning (garden).
4. Darci has requested stand-up desks (\$400 each).
5. Michelle requested a classroom cart (\$250).
6. A few more gaga balls, whiteboard table for Millie's resource work.

SAC balance sits at \$3343.96. (Nothing was spent since our last meeting.)

Is there a provincial inventory of unused equipment, to get our hands on more stand-up desks?

SAC unanimously approved Millie spending up to \$3500 on the above items. (It's ok to run a deficit.)

Principal's report was read.

The profile for 2023/24:

25% gym

14% music

25% French (down from 30% last year)

50% counsellor

40% resource

60% admin

25% reading recovery

New business/public input:

- Johnette asked if the ladies who were interested in doing the lunch program were still interested. No, they're not.
- Johnette asked how long kids have to eat lunch. Answer: 45 minutes (20 to eat, 20 outside).

We will have no more SAC meetings this school year, unless something comes up that we need to vote on.

Johnette adjourned at 7:28.