

**School Advisory Council**

**Annual Report – June 2024**

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| School | J.L. Ilsley High School |

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| Please list SAC members including names, membership type (i.e., parent, community member, staff), and role (i.e., Chair, Vice Chair). |
| Cari Duggan-MacNeil (Chair) Rhonda Johnson (parent) Diana Dibblee (parent)Laura MacKenzie (community member) Neil Burbridge (teacher, staff – Students Council Advisor)Amanda Campbell (Teacher, staff) Marilyn MacGibbon (Principal) Summer Hartlin (student rep) Meagan Williams (student rep) Tara Sampson (Parent) Rhonda Durnford (Parent)Debbra Walsh-Poirier (Parent) Shauna Ferrar (Parent)Keri Butler (Vice Principal – non-voting)Kurt Jerrett (Vice Principal – non-voting) |

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| Please describe a summary of work undertaken by the SAC to improve student achievement and school performance. |
| The SAC at JL Ilsley met on 8 occasions during the 2023-24 school year. Each meeting contained reports from the principal as well as updates on Student Council activities and building updates. The SAC sought input from staff and community prior to meetings that were included as part of each meeting.Student updates included completed and upcoming activities. The students shared successes of various events and theme weeks, as well as other in-school activities. This year we had opening day orientation activities and assemblies; Three different guest speaker assemblies that engaged students on a variety of topics – Wellness and Mental Health (Gabby Scollard), Motivation and Mindset (D.O. Gibson) and MAJE (hip-hop artist); We had three school dances, and each dance had game/activity/karaoke rooms for students that are uninterested in dances but want to be involved and engage with school activities; We had a holiday week with a school wide talent show (with a staff performance), charity bowl basketball and hockey games that raised money for the Chebucto family centre; school Talent Show and student/staff dodgeball game; We did a food drive for the family centre and had several schoolyard cleanup days. Other significant moments were the introduction of Judges of the Month, where students and staff were recognized for their contributions to the school and community, Orange Shirt Day, Pink Shirt Day, Black excellence day and Black Excellence career panel, Pride week, Last Blast week, and numerous athletics events. T-shirts were also distributed to graduating students (Class of 2024) showing pride in the school community.**Student Success Plan Goals*****Well-being****: To improve students’ well-being through our work to ensure student safety.*During the opening day, we held assemblies for our students to acclimate to the building, school expectations and introduce staff and student council. In classrooms, teachers leveraged opening day get to know students questionnaires and surveys to continue to build upon some of our short-cycle SSP goals of knowing our students as learners. As the year progressed our student and staff equity teams were able to bring various cultural events to the student body including an evening community Iftar dinner, a celebration for Black Excellence Day, and Juneteenth. Our Health Action team also organized several events and workshops for students through their work to support student well-being. ***Math****: We will improve student achievement in mathematics, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mik’maw/Indigenous ancestry.*Staff focused on getting to know their learners both inside and outside the classroom. Teachers leveraged “get to know you” surveys to create culturally responsive lessons to engage students, as well as utilize student’s preferred learning styles during instruction and assessment. They also actively and intentionally made connections with students during independent work time to further their knowledge of student needs and interests. As part of their other short cycle goals towards improving student achievement they also continued to leverage the Building Thinking Classroom models and adapted their learning spaces to make their classroom more welcoming, which enabled them to have easier conversations with students due to the increase in open spaces. Students engaged more with each other as well as the teacher when the desks were grouped together because they were more closely connected. It allowed an increase in work collaboration as well.***Literacy****: We will improve student achievement in literacy, focusing on our students of African and/or Mi’kmaw and Indigenous students.*Our English Language Arts classes/teachers did several short cycle goals throughout the year focusing on literacy techniques and getting to know our learners, improving literal comprehension when engaging with text, and how to use evidence and details to support comprehension-based questions. After each short-cycle, staff reflected on best practices from their individual classes as well as analyzed the success of the strategies put in place for students.We also had support in our English 9 classes (and teachers) with a Literacy coach from HRCE to support some of the short cycle planning learning activities. |

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| Please list any significant milestones and success stories that the SAC would like to highlight. |
| SAC connected with HRM to ensure that the school field was equipped with appropriate seating and waste containers.SAC Chair and Administration attended the SAC Professional Development evening to learn more about the Inclusive Education Policy and participated in a short meeting with the Minister of Education.As part of the Minister of Education’s First Voice project, JL Ilsley received additional staff to use to support student learning as part of the pilot. This role was filled with one of the school’s current teachers who worked with Grade 9 students on academics, but also helped teachers to streamline assessment practices. This pilot project was continually collecting dataFood insecurity continues to be an ongoing concern in the school community. To not only bring the student body together, but also help address this insecurity, a school-wide turkey dinner was served in December. Staff, students, and community volunteers fed all our students. The school also continues to operate the Judges Pantry where students can pick up some food supplies day-to-day, as well as offering some extra items on Fridays. Family SOS contributed 1 meal per month, organized and served by students and staff.  |

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| Please describe any related sub-committee work undertaken by SAC members (e.g., School Options Committee). |
| SAC sub-committee on fundraising continued their work in supporting student activities by the online 50/50 monthly draws. Revenues were used for student activities such as prom/graduation, student bursaries, music and art programs, athletics, as well as area of greatest need where school staff could direct the funds to special projects such as guest speakers or supplies for school improvement. |

**Statements of Revenues and Expenditures:**

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| Expenditures supporting the school improvement plan (e.g., providing resources to support math and literacy instruction). |
| SAC authorized purchase of chromebook carts and other technology to support student learning and student safety. Exact numbers for these resources are still being determined as of June 14/24. However, the budget of $6024.00 (less operational expenses) was allocated to purchase these items. |

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| Expenditures supporting policy development and implementation (e.g., supporting and promoting new policies). |
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| Expenditures covering operational expenses; up to 20 per cent of provincial SAC funding may be used as operational expenses, if necessary, to encourage and support member participation). |
| JL Illsey SAC spent $163.02 on operational expenses to support member participation.SAC Transfer sent to Cari Duggan for staff - $163.02*Please note that these amounts will be adjusted as SAC is providing a year-end Staff Appreciation treat and receipts have not yet been submitted. (As of June 14/24)* |
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Please return to School Supervisor by Friday, June 14, 2024. Thank you.