

Ridgecliff Middle School
SAC Agenda: January 20th 2026 @5pm

Members in Attendance:

Staff: Mr. G. White, Mrs. O. Lowe, Ms. A Black, Sarah Harvey, Sarah Smith, Jill Baker

Community Members: Brian Wolfe, Cheryl Patterson, Tasha Marshall, Daniel Bourque, Allana Loder

Student Reps: Haley Richardson-Carmichael, Abigale MacKenzie-Trudgian, Rayah Currie

Discussion Items	Minutes
Call to order	5:00pm
Current Enrollment	650
Principal's Report	<p>Important Dates:</p> <p>Jan 13th - O2 presentations. Bayview High School representatives came to RMS to present information about the O2 program.</p> <p>Jan 14th- Students were invited to Bayview for an orientation presentation and tour. It was extremely well attended.</p> <p>January 21st- Bayview guidance councilors visiting RMS to discuss course selections with grade 9 students</p> <p>January 27th- O2 Lunch and Learn. Bayview O2 representatives will be at RMS during lunch to provide more information about the O2 program to interested grade 9 students.</p> <p>January 27th- Grade 9 parent night at Bayview. Parents are invited to Bayview to discuss course selections.</p> <p>Feb 20th- O2 applications due</p>

Feb 26th- RMS student showcase

What has been Happening:

- Dr Henry Bishop visited RMS to offer an anti-racism workshop to Core French students in grades 8 & 9
- Kids Help Phone presented virtual workshop to grade 8 RMS students
- Clean Energy visited Mrs. Drake's grade 6 class
- HRCE senior leadership visited RMS

Student Achievement:

- Math priority plans are being developed for grade 8 students who are not yet achieving a 75+.
- Grade 6 provincial results showed that RMS students are under performing in Math and Literacy. RMS has traditionally been successful in closing the achievement gap, and will put in the work to do so with our current grade 6 student. .
- PD days/Teacher learning- 12 teachers will be attending equity training offered by Otis Daye (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Consultant at Halifax Regional Centre for Education)

Athletics:

- Basketball season has started

Wellness Fair:

- Staff are in the process of planning a wellness fair at RMS. Our philosophy is that students need to be well to do well. This day offers a variety of engaging workshops that focus on student well-being. Lunch will be provided to all students who participate.

RMS Pillars Program: How we plan to embed the RMS values and visions into the fabric of our school.(Kind and Respectful, Inclusion, Growth, Learning, Working Together, Being Brave and Confident)

- We have begun recognizing students who exemplify one or more of the RMS pillars. These students are nominated by staff and receive a custom T-shirt that represents what pillar they have achieved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term goal: We want students to chase all 6 shirts by grade 9. • The front lobby has been primed and will be painted. We are currently waiting on a quote to have the pillars in the lobby wrapped in vinyl. These vinyl wraps will be designed to represent RMS values and vision statements. The goal is to highlight the things that are important to our school which is a culture of learning and excellence.
<p>New Items</p>	<p><u>School Growth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMS has grown and is projected to grow over the next 2 years. 2021/2022 (563); 2022/2023 (579); Current (650); projected enrollment in the next 2 years is 720. • Official enrollment capacity is 695 <p><u>Challenges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMS does not have sufficient physical capacity to support high-quality learning experiences for that number of students. • Three Grade 6 classes are in portables, and 2 are in the school. The learning environment for the classrooms in the school are affected each hour by class changes for grades 7-9. • The learning environment for junior high classrooms on the main floor are impacted by grade 6 recess. • With inclement weather, indoor lunches have become challenging as we have limited space and overlapping lunches. • With limited space, we are unable to offer electives to students. RMS offers Band and Art, but students must choose between one or the other. • <p><u>Solution:</u> Modular learning space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modular learning space would allow us to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have our elementary classes in one common space. This will result in fewer interruptions to the learning environment, promote collaboration between educators, and encourage cross-curricular learning.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Offer learning spaces to our traveling teachers (we currently have 3 teachers on carts.) ○ Freeing up classroom space will enable us to broaden our elective offerings and ensure parity with other HRCE junior high schools.
Suggested Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Iain Rankin (MLA Timberlea/Prospect) will look into drafting a petition for a Modular Learning Space to replace the portables at RMS. This petition can be signed by students, staff, community members and will be presented to the house in early spring ● Writing Campaign: SAC will encourage parents to write to Brendan Maguire (Minister of Education) and copy Mrs. Iain Rankin, regarding challenges with space at RMS.
Next Meeting: Adjournment	Thursday, February 26th @4:45 6:20pm