

MHS PSSC Meeting Minutes Oct 26, 2023 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Members Present

Lynn Adams	Susie MacDow	Evan Hambrook
Mike Booth	Abdelrahman Mahmoud	Angela Harris
Matthew Evans	Laura McManaman	Matthew Sammut
Scott Farrell	Kate Randall	Aaschir Sheikh

Regrets

No Regrets

Correspondence

No Correspondence

Approval of Agenda

Agenda Approved - Moved (Mike Booth), Seconded (Matt Sammut)

New Member Introductions

New Members were introduced and provided a overview of their background

Role of the PSSC

Role of the PSSC presented by Matthew Sammut

PSSC Secretary Election

Matthew Evans elected PSSC Secretary by acclamation.

Moved (Matthew Sammut), Seconded (Angela Harris)

Student Report

Student report provided by Aaschir Sheikh

Discussion followed on school population increase and challenges with multiple lunch breaks.

Teacher Rep Report

Laura McManaman reported on

- Several ongoing activities by the Fashion Club including a fashion show, pop-up market and other fundraising.
- Activities of the Leadership and Design 110 Class Including
 - Working towards food security for students by implementing a lunch program and looking into other options to provide sustainable resources to students.
 - Creation of personal hygiene closets to meet health and sanitary needs.
 - Efforts to help Grade 9 students better integrate into the MHS community by a School Spirit Team
 - Creation of a sense of belonging team to help build better connections between students.

- MHS Baseball had a successful run falling just short as district champions this year.
- Football has semi-finals coming up.
- There is a school survey coming.

Questions after Teacher Presentation:

- Comments on AP Courses
- Questions on Student Survey coming.
 - Will survey results be made public?
 - Will there potentially be a parent survey?

Principal's Report

Scott Farrell provided numerous updates:

- Discussion on school safety procedures including procedures to avoid and mitigate incidents.
- Implementation of a hall pass system.
- Closed campus for Grade 9 and 10 students.
- Safety plans
- Lengthy discussion on school over-population
 - Multiple lunch breaks cause resource challenges (Custodial staff, Supervision, etc.)
 - Moncton high already has the longest school day in the district.
 - Continued challenges with changes to bell schedule due to limitations in the current bell system which won't be fixed until the replacement of the system in 2024. Requires manual ringing of 4th period bell by admin staff which sometimes gets missed to other obligations.
 - There are currently many portable classrooms with 4 more coming. One of the portable classrooms is for washroom capacity.
 - Classes are currently being held in the library and cafeteria which poses challenges.
 - Holding school assemblies requires one to be held for each grade level, causing many challenges and use of some staff and students for four periods.
 - There is only one custodian to manage two lunch breaks for nearly 1600 students. There have been discussions on getting an additional position but not yet in budget.
 - There are new schools in the plan for Dieppe and Shediac Cape however the impact of those will be limited.
- Student Handbook - Will be on web site soon.

Questions:

- With Moncton High student population up to 1580 this year from 1430 last year and with the school originally built for 1150 students, what is being done.
 - Boundary changes won't really help the issue as all high schools in the area are seeing the same issues of overcapacity.

Review of School Fees

The committee discussed school fees which are a source of some frustration for parents. We were assured these are reviewed every year and are used for specific purposes.

Other Issues

There was some discussion on shortage of teachers.

Takeaways

None. Items which require more follow up to be added to next agenda.

Next Meeting Date and Time: December 14, 2023 @ 6:30 PM