

## PSSC Meeting Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> Minutes

**Time and Location:** 6:30pm in the MHS Learning Commons

**In attendance:** Susie MacDow, Lynn Adams, Kate Randall, Scott Farrell (principal), Matthew Sammut (chair), Evan Hambrook, Aaschir Sheikh (student representative), Laura McManaman (teacher representative), Angela Harris (via Teams), Dominic Vautour (DEC member)

**Special Guest:** Randolph MacLEAN (superintendent Anglophone East School District)

**Call to open meeting** – Aaschir Sheikh made the motion and Kate Randall seconded

**Correspondence** – none

**Agenda** – amendment made to add Dominic Vautour (DEC member) to agenda after principal report

**Approval of minutes** – Susie MacDown made the motion and Evan Hambrook seconded

**Student report** – presented by Aaschir Sheikh

STUDENT COUNCIL RECAP (Post February 18th Meeting)

March: Olympics

- Finished taking sign-ups
- Began qualifiers

Easter Egg Hunt

- Hid Easter Eggs over a week
- Allowed students to trade them in for prizes

April:

Olympics

- Began Olympics
- Held opening and closing ceremonies
- Gave out medals to winners

Spirit Assembly

- Featured student acts
- Closing ceremony with Olympics

Coffee House

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Coffee House
- Went well

Culture Weeks

- StuCo + Develop & Lead kids

- Stage activities
- International music

#### Theme Weeks

- Standard spirit stuff

#### May:

##### Rugby

- Pep rally for both girls and boys
- MHS won both

##### Spring Formal

- Tropical Paradise Theme
- Photo Booth
- No DJ
- Sold Out

##### YouthFest

- MHS was present (17 participants)

##### Codiac Transpo

- New schedule coming out on the 19<sup>th</sup> (runs at 12pm and 7pm)

#### COMING UP

#### May:

##### Culture Day

- All cultures

##### Dragon Boat

##### Relay for Life

#### June:

##### Pride Week

##### Spirit Assembly

#### **Teacher report** – presented by Laura McManaman

1. Two groups of MHS students recently attended the Innovation Fair. They are working in collaboration with a company called Brilliant Labs. One group is called Shine Bright and is made up of two grade 10 students in the Development and Lead class who are creating

solar powered lights to send to India. One of the students has family members in the area and they lack access to electricity. This means things like schoolwork are very difficult to accomplish. The goal of the students is not only to make the lights but also travel to India to deliver them and provide the people with the technology/skills to make their own lights. The other team is headed by Leah Brown, grade 11 student, who created a functioning filter made of human hair designed to clean up oil from the ocean. Human hair naturally absorbs oil and is relatively safe as a construction material. Leah sourced the hair from a local hair dressing shop and teamed up with another student attending the fair who 3D printed a frame to hold the hair sponge. Both teams have been selected to attend the national competition next week, but not as student presenters. They have been invited to attend as inventors who will pitch products to industry. This is an amazing opportunity and privilege as they are the ONLY group of students Canada wide who received this invitation.

2. The Health and Sanitary Team from the Develop and Lead 110 class held an assembly on April 4<sup>th</sup> for mental health week and invited classes to attend. The guest speaker was Jeremy Quiring, a guidance counsellor from AESD who talked about how to identify, quantify and manage stress. They also held various activities during lunch hour for the week to teach students how to handle stress.
3. The Develop and Lead 110 class have been hosting a series of assemblies throughout the year as part of their Culture Weeks initiatives. On March 13<sup>th</sup> students were invited to attend an assembly on the Philippines. This is a new school event the class is promoting and organizing. Typically, this type of event is held for one week only, but there are so many cultures represented here at MHS that students wanted to make a different event each month.
4. There will be a blood drive held on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Students were invited to attend an informational session on May 14<sup>th</sup> with representatives from Canadian Blood Services to learn about the importance of blood donations and the mechanics of what is required to donate. All students 17 and older who meet requirements can donate.
5. Two third year Dalhousie Medical students came in on May 13<sup>th</sup> to talk to grade 11 and 12 science classes to discuss the path to medical school. They talked about how medical school works, the application process, demands on time, academic rigor, etc. They also talked about other careers that can be found in hospitals and medical clinics.
6. The NB based non-profit group “We’re Here For You” hosted 2 assemblies on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Their mission is to educate and spread awareness to students and adults around our province. Constable Christine Lemay and two nurses presented on the topics of human trafficking, safety, sextortion safety tips and sexual assault awareness.

7. MHS' 9<sup>th</sup> annual Girls Day Out was held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at NBCC and was a huge success. This year, the event was able to highlight culinary, graphic art and design, aesthetics and massage therapy careers with hands on activities. In addition to dancing, positive affirmation button making, and indigenous dream catcher crafting there were prizes, food and snacks. The event was free and open to all female-identifying students. There was a panel of three diverse women (the youngest speaker was 17) who shared stories of resilience with the students. The feedback from attendees was absolutely fabulous!
  
8. The Knight in Vogue/Knight of the Arts celebration was held on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 people turned up to watch MHS students display their artistic talents. The MHS Fashion Club spent months creating, curating and styling their wardrobe before displaying their hard work in a fantastic fashion show. There were also vendors selling artwork, jewelry/accessories, crafts, food, etc. At the same time, students displayed their various artwork for visitors to admire.
  
9. Four students (2 teams of 2) will be attending the NB High School Computer Science Competition at UNB SJ at the end of the month.

**Meeting with Superintendent Randolph MacLEAN via Teams:**

General discussion points raised by Superintendent:

- 75 portables currently in system across district; MHS only high school that has them
- New school opening by MacNaughton (name to be released later)
- Bessborough and Hillcrest remaining open
- Still welcoming large numbers of students a month district wide
- This will be the last round of portables to MHS and will be open for September 2024 – there will be no more opened going forward; we have reached our limit
- Moncton is the fastest growing city in Canada
- 1 out of every 5 residential units in province is built in Dieppe
- Fastest growing district in province
- Shediac school:
  - design approved
  - school should be built in 3 years; slated to open September 2027
  - school will be built for ~1200 students
  - result will be taking 300 students out of MHS
- K-12 school approved in Dieppe:
  - design phase initiated and will be brought to DEC by June
  - shovels in ground in 10-12 months
  - opening in 3 years; slated to open September 2027
  - school will be built for ~1600 students

- result will be taking 500 students out of MHS
- Because this is going to be done in 3 years, they don't want to make boundary changes
- Enrollment trends being closely watched
- Where do students go if there is no room at MHS?
  - Possible space available in other high schools
- 123 students not attending their local schools throughout district because there is no space (none currently in high school)
- HTHS – projected enrollment is going to put them above capacity; no room for portables (physical space does not support placement of portables)
- Capping enrollment at MHS and HTHS – where do new students go?
  - Bus them to RHS?
  - BMHS – not at capacity yet
  - AEI students – not attending MHS going forward? **Result will be loss of money for school!!!**
  - Out of bounds students – remove all and send them back to their home schools (exception for grade 12 students; let them graduate)
  - Split shifts – possibility; extreme end of possibilities
- TRHS – ~540 students attending but room for 800ish students
- Could Shediac students go to TRHS short term? – no bus routes; don't want to move students twice (from MHS to TRHS and then to Shediac when school is opened)

**Kate Randall questions/concerns for Superintendent:** Projected capacity of new schools – have we taken into account projection/growth? Shediac projected to open at 950 and cap at 1300

Dieppe school projected to open at 1400 and cap at 1900

Looking at movement within middle schools – space at EC, Lewisville full, etc.

Portables at MHS – will it alleviate stress? Will we be at capacity now and not over? Superintendent says we are staffed for growth and not current numbers at the school.

**Lynn Adams questions/concerns for Superintendent:** Will the new portables be ready for August opening? They have assured superintendent they will be ready to open.

Fire code safety – fire marshal would shut down school if unsafe... 35% overcapacity is safe? What is the capacity considered safe for MHS? The capacity of the school proper and then with the portables is different from fire marshal numbers. Follow up will be conducted on this topic.

**Susie MacDow questions/concerns for Superintendent:** How will the new schools in Dieppe and Shediac be ready in such a short period of time? Other schools have taken 4 years+. Northrup Frye is the quickest one constructed and it took 4 years. How can this one be up and running so quickly? Expedited approval processes will allow decisions to be made more quickly so building can start faster.

Enrollment cap – once that number is reached students will be turned away? Yes. Transportation will have to be changed to bus students to other schools with room.

**Angela Harris questions/concerns for the Superintendent:** Government construction contracts – are there penalties if construction not completed on time? Can we implement this? Traditionally not part of process of school builds

How can parents/community help influence the decision makers? Keep applying pressure, send letters, hold superintendent accountable (feet to fire), media is not helpful (with upcoming election PSSC feels it is, actually)...

**Evan Hambrook questions/concerns for the Superintendent:** Why fewer school days? Wouldn't affect the high school system as students are done by that time because of exams. Only affects K-8 students. In the past, these days were never instructional time for any students. This year was the first time they were in the system as such.

Dominic Vautour has meeting with Minister Hogan May 27<sup>th</sup> and the last-minute change will be brought up with him at this time.

**Matthew Sammut questions/concerns for the Superintendent:** students are not prepared when they arrive at high school (big gaps from middle school/elementary school) and lots of staff with little experience working as teachers (according to Superintendent ~250 within first 3 years of their career, 100+ in their first year and ~65 without a teaching degree)

Exponential growth and retirement are major issues; factors affecting districts across Canada

Not a unique AESD/NB issue

ELPA results – every high school in AESD success rates increased (MHS increased by 5%)

We are trending in the right direction in terms of literacy, numeracy, bilingualism, etc.

**Points brought up by Dominic Vautour:**

Price tag for Shediac = \$30M (including land, architecture, site prep)

Price of portables = ~\$4M (?)

Expansion of school vs. adding portables? Which is more economical?

Portables (except 4 newest ones added this year) are not accessible which limits students/staff/classes who can be placed there

For the first time province is building for growth with Shediac but it was difficult to convince them – rejected first data presented

Q. Why aren't students from Memramcook, St. Anselme, etc. going to TRHS? They have room and it is as close if not closer than coming here.

Role of DEC – in between AESD and EECD; DEC can reject documents, send them back for further review (ex. not having a school already at capacity in Shediac when it's opened), amend/suggest policies, DEC is a political position, 4 year elected term (municipal elections), elected by district and then sub-district which is attached to a family of schools, can be a direct representative between superintendent and PSSC

June 2027 – Shediac turnover

August 2027 – Dieppe turnover

Workshop in the fall to get all PSSC chairs together to talk about how to best leverage the power of the committee – standardized email addresses, networking, communication, dealing with the media, distribution lists for PSSC, Robert's Rules of running a meeting

**Principal's report** – presented by Scott Farrell:

School Improvement Plan (SIP) – presentation made to Jason Reath, Donna Godfrey and Randy MacLEAN last week

Extra-curricular activities – lots of great things happening at MHS

Teacher evaluations – 20+ teachers being evaluated who are in the early years of their career

Staffing is currently underway for the 2024-2025 school year

Volunteerism – Spring Formal 10-12 staff volunteering at each shift and staying late to put things away, clean up

Welcome Center – 10-15 students registered in the last 2.5 weeks, registrar/course evaluations

Alternate Education – another pathway for students; restructuring the system at EC (TESS will not be functioning like it has in the past)

Summer school – in person and online

Exam Week/Demonstration of Learning/Course Recovery – not scheduled yet; predominantly grades 11-12 with some from grade 9-10

Matthew Sammut asked the committee to vote on whether we want to put the letters to EECD and Superintendent and their responses on website under PSSC

Vote taken to add this to agenda – read into agenda 5 votes for 0 votes against

Date and time of next meeting TBD with a final supper meeting

**Motion to adjourn** – Evan Hambrook moved