

PSSC Minutes Oct 29, 2024

December 2, 2024

7:26 AM

Lynn Adams	Matthew Evans	Scott Farrell	Evan Hambrook
Angela Harris	Rokeebah Adeleye	Katie Campbell	Susie MacDow
Laura McManaman	Kate Randall	Matthew Sammut	Tanya Scott
Justin Beers			

Motion to Open Meeting - Evan (Moved), Angela (2nd)

1. Regrets - Mohammed, Ashley
1. Correspondence - None
1. Approval of Agenda

Added to Agenda - School Improvement Plan

1. School Improvement Plan

A presentation on the school improvement plan was reviewed.

- Literacy/Numeracy Goals
- French Proficiency Goals

There are various remedial steps in place to work with students not meeting proficiency goals.

There have also been concerns about students leaving FI after Grade 9. Some interventions are in place to reduce those occurrences.

There were significant discussions around Goal 3 in the SIP which is that students and teachers feel safe and cared for. Only 54% of staff indicated they felt safe in a recent survey. There have been various improvements to safety in the school, including installation of more cameras, auto door locks and intercom improvements.

1. Student Report - Rokeebah Adeleye

Rokeebah outlined numerous activities done at MHS in September and October including:

- Buddy Week, pairing up Grade 9s and Grade 12
- Twin Day
- A pep rally
- Worthy of note - MHS won the annual homecoming game!
- Orange Shirt Day - \$500 Raised
- Dance/Bake Sale
- Halloween Week fundraiser activities with proceeds going to the IWK Children's Hospital
- Remembrance Day Assembly
- Coffee House
- Movember activities upcoming

A concern was also raised about lighting at the corner of Longfellow and Elmwood where some parents have a hard time finding the turn after dark. The installation of an LED signboard similar to what LB McNaughton High School has was suggested as a possible solution.

1. Principal's Report - Scott Farrell

Issues that were experienced with the Bell system have now been fixed

There has been a push to hire a building manager for Moncton High to help deal with the physical infrastructure. This may occur by second semester.

Many building maintenance issues have been noted and reported to the school district including ventilation system issues and issues with water pressure in some parts of the building.

There is currently an RCMP Officer assigned to be responsible for Moncton High School, but no RCMP officer actually present in the school. This was discussed, including the recollection that there used to be an officer who occupied an office at the old Moncton High School.

Teacher Report - Laura McManaman

From the Develop and Lead 110 class (who will be presenting to the PSSC in December)

The food security team is up and running! They are managing the free lunch program we offer to all students. They are responsible for ordering food from the Food Depot Alimentaire, creating a menu for each week, managing volunteers for the serving of food each day and ensuring that the space is cleaned up and ready for the next day. On average, we are serving anywhere from 50-75 kids each day and the numbers continue to climb. They are also planning to build a greenhouse for the school and have been working hard to secure funding to make it happen.

There is a new Communication and Connection team this year who have goals of improving literacy exposure for all students and to have an MHS news channel to share important information about what is happening around our school so more students can be aware of events and participate (thus fostering a greater sense of connection)

Another team this year is the Sense of Belonging & Cultural Inclusivity Team. They have been working on planning a school wide field trip for all students to have a fun, educational experience and shared memories outside of regular schoolwork. This is planned for the spring.

On a separate note (not managed by D&L) the Grab and Go food stations are up and running around the school. We are working with individualized students who use the distribution list to take the correct number of each item to the designated rooms. They are practicing many skills as they work on this: counting, organizing, moving products, following directions and multiple steps, etc. The stations are available to all students any time during the day and have proven to be a very needed and effective way for students to access food and snacks to support their learning.

From the Guidance Department

The counselling team is considering offering parent information sessions in the evenings, out in the community. What topics would you be interested to learn about? So far, we were considering topics such as 1) Post-Secondary Planning 2) 100 Credit Hour Pathway 3) Essential Skills Achievement Pathway and 4) Executive Functions

From the Data SPR:

There is a parent session being held tomorrow night before parent-teacher interviews to help teach parents how to use Power School and School Messenger. These tools are how we communicate information regarding marks, attendance, etc. Currently, fewer than 1/3 of our parents have signed into these programs or are using them.

From the Math Department

To help meet the numeracy goal from the MHS school improvement plan, we have started some short-term and targeted interventions with the Math 9 and GMF 10 classes. All grade 9 students wrote an MHS-created screener. Based on results, students were recommended to the program. Grade 10 students were identified by their current and former teachers. The hope is that by filling some gaps, the success rate in both classes will increase and more students will continue to take higher-level math courses.

From the Music Department

Grade 12 World Music students recently travelled to Mount Allison University in Sackville for a field trip.

The Two Towers Concert Band will be playing a lunchtime concert for students on Wednesday, October 30.

From the Art Department

Teachers in the art department have planned a large beading unit studying and practicing indigenous, Ukrainian and Maasai methodologies and cultures. Discussions will be held around the cultural importance of beading to Mi'kmaq and Wolastoq artists and communities and a Mik'maq beader would visit the classes to share their knowledge and to assist students in using beading in their own artistic practice.

The crowning achievement of the unit is a proposed class trip to the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton to visit the internationally acclaimed travelling show "Radical Stitch" as well as an exhibit about Tom Thompson. The trip will take place over 3 days in late December with 52 kids and 4 staff visiting the gallery each day.

Sadly, because of the severe shortage of school buses, it isn't possible to have a bus for the entire day. If students took a school bus at a cost of \$800/day, they couldn't leave until 9 AM (after dropping off high school students) and would need to be back by 2 PM (to start picking up elementary school students). This would leave about 30-45 minutes to tour the exhibit.

The only other option is to charter a bus at \$1800/day which is prohibitive/expensive for students.

Multiple attempts have been made to secure funding from various departments within the district to no avail. Teachers are looking into fundraising options to try to offset the cost but are also hoping that someone might have a contact/lead to help with this issue.

From the Science Department

Mr. Trail's Agriculture 110 course recently acquired an incubator and various fertilized chicken eggs. Students successfully hatched a number of chicks, built a pen to keep them in after hatching and then raised them for a brief time before returning them back to the farmer. It was an amazing experience for all involved!

From the Turkey Drive Committee

One of our educational assistants, Crystal Layden, has spearheaded the annual turkey drive for many years. Crystal along with her team collects and distributes turkeys and other items to try to ensure that all MHS families can enjoy a wonderful meal during the holiday season. Each year, the need in our school grows. Currently, Crystal is looking for donations of turkeys and other items.

Concerns

1. Overcrowding/Safety Issues

- As weather gets colder and students move inside at lunch, where will they go? Discussion on this topic centred around creative solutions including relaxing rules for eating on stairwells and other options.
- Congestion in hallways and stairwells and bathrooms is a serious issue. Discussion on this point included the length of time it takes to get into a bathroom between classes as well as safety concerns as some students don't feel comfortable going into some bathrooms. Teachers try to keep the number of students bathrooms at any given time under control as much as they can and monitor those areas.

1. Other concerns

- Where is the promised building manager? A: This may be in place in second semester
- Where is the RCMP officer tied to our school? A: There is an RCMP officer assigned to MHS however there is no officer present at all times within the

building. Discussion on this point noted that there used to be an officer on site at the old MHS.

- Ventilation system issues: Multiple discussions have been held on this with the district and outside contractors.
- Plumbing Issues on the third floor: Insufficient water pressure.
- Nonfunctioning equipment such as Photocopiers.

Unfilled Positions

- Daily unfilled teaching, support and/or custodial positions (ex. The previous Friday there were 9 unfilled teaching positions)
- Classrooms going 10+ days without a cleaning while perhaps COVID, Influenza and other illnesses rage through the building.
- Staff being asked to step in and fill gaps is problematic.

From the NBTA/NBTF

- Unfilled teaching and other staff positions: The NBTA/NBTF is requesting that we provide data on violence and unfilled teaching positions to all of our PSSC. They want to ensure school PSSCs are aware of the reality of fail-to-fills and how the supply teacher shortage is negatively impacting students. They also want parents and communities to be aware of the rate of violence in our schools, whether due to exceptionalities or as a result of the "general lowering of academic and behavioural expectations". Data is coming in December.
- They want to get the data out there, likely in the hopes that these parents and communities may be able to enact necessary change from the outside that we are struggling to enact from inside the system.

Other

- As the only high school in the city without an auditorium or other gathering space, it is exceedingly hard to have assemblies and foster school spirit. For example, the upcoming Remembrance Day ceremony will be repeated 4 times during the day. There are all kinds of logistical problems with this. Discussion on this topic centred around various portable options all of which come with their own potential issues and fire code questions.

1. Discussion on Hold and Secure Incident at MHS and any possible efforts to increase school security. Details of incident, including positives, negatives upon reflection.

Lengthy discussions this topic. It was generally agreed this the issue which occurred with a non-student off campus was handled well with staff and students. There was some concern during hold and secure about best method to notify students who were not at the school as this happened during lunch break. This was handled by staff but taken as a note for any future potential improvements.

Other mitigation steps to avoid violent incidents were discussed including work with a behavioural interventionist, plans for individual known cases,

There is a Non-Violent Crisis Intervention team to help with incidents.

Code Colours are used for different situations to trigger responses as needed.

1. Review of the overcrowding at MHS and how it is affecting school efficiencies and learning environments

Overcrowding is still a significant issue impacting the school.

- There are 50 students within MHS zone bussing to RHS
- 70 students are being taught through alternative pathways
- The new schools in Dieppe and Shediac Cape have not broken ground yet
- Students still have to have multiple assemblies as described above.
- Fire drills were held and the fire marshall visited. Some flow changes were identified to increase efficiency of traffic flow.
- School administration is still advocating for a second day custodian with the district.
- Additional money has been spent on cameras to improve safety
- Bus shortages are also an issue district-wide
 - Students frequently late for 9 AM start due to bus delays.
 - Busses are sometimes cancelled due to staffing

1. Other Issues

The school's return this year to a single lunch period has been going quite well. It's easier to do launch hour activities, school clubs and has reduced the amount of teacher supervision time required.

Concerns discussed around parents expecting immediate responses from teachers when contacting by e-mail.

Concern raised around report cards being issued after Parent Teacher Interviews this fall. We were advised that this calendar is set by the district.

Motion To Adjourn