

PSSC Minutes Feb 21, 2024

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6:06 PM

Laura McManaman	Evan Hambrook	Matthew Sammut
Mike Booth	Scott Farrell	Lynn Adams
Susie McDow	Aaschir Sheikh	Angela Harris
Kate Randall		

A. **Regrets** - None

B. **Correspondence** - None

C. **Approval Of Agenda**

a. Mike. Matthew

D. **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Matt, Unknown B

E. **Student Report - Aaschir Sheikh (Paper Appendix)**

a. Winter Formal - Sold all tickets

b. Winter assembly - Very successful

c. Elf Hunt - Awarded AirPods

d. Moncton Hospital Toy Drive - \$1000 Raised and Bought Toys for Kids with funds from Christmas Events

e. Therapy Dog group came in during exam week

f. Codiac Transp meeting - January. Earliest they will make changes is May. Asked for 12:30 PM and 7 PM Bus. They were on board.

- g. Valentine's Day Activities were done
- h. Boys Basketball Spirit Game - MHS Won! Tickets were all sold. Had to limit the number of students due to safety capacity.
- i. Black History Month - Featuring influential african americans on announcements
- j. March Plans - 7-week Olympics school wide featuring teams from each grade. There will be qualifiers after March break including as many students as possible.

A. Teacher's Report - Laura McManaman (Separate Sheet) - (Expand based on sheet)

- a. Guidance and administration have been planning a parent workshop for April 15 to help parents understand new graduation pathways. New students are on a 100 credit hour pathway.
- b. Some community events are planned with transportation and meals to drop some barriers and provide better communication to the community on this. These will be livestreamed and recorded.
- c. Fashion club has fashion show and market. Students have been collecting donations. Money raised will go back to fashion club, school and students.
- d. 4 students were selected and attended a girls in STEM event last month. This was open to any student that had an interest but mainly students who are. There will also be a conference in Fredericton which will include some students from MHS.
- e. Students being released at lunch time to celebrate solar eclipse at lunchtime on April 8 for safety reasons. Some MHS students are creating a weather balloon to capture data on the solar eclipse, collaborating with a number of other schools.
- f. MHS Drama presents Mamma Mia in 2024. Tickets are on sale and will perform April 4-7.
- g. CENB - Math competition next Friday. Students from MHS will participate.
- h. Develop and Lead 110 notes
 - i. Food Security Team (Expand)

- ii. School Spirit Team (Expand)
- iii. Sense of Belonging Team (Expand)
- iv. Health and Sanitation Team (Expand)
- v. Personal interest pieces - One student learning ASL
- vi. Personal Interest - Healthy Cooking and Good Eating Habits
- vii. Trying to bring back Knight of the Arts
- viii. Some students ran a jewelry business

G. Principal's Report - Scott Farrell (Paper Appendix)

- a. Final Assessment Week
 - 1. Grade 9s have to take 2 assessments, and they usually get scheduled on one day because students don't have a way home.
 - 2. MHS Situation is unique because almost all students bus.
 - 3. Discussion on number of days students have off. The number of instructional days per year is 195, which is more than we previously had.
 - 4. It was also noted that assessment says and turnaround days are mandated provincially and not in the control of MHS
- b. Portables have been installed. Now no classes being taught in the cafeteria. 4 new portables have been ordered in the fall.

Concern was expressed by Mr. Farrell about new portables coming next fall and placement. There is adjacent land not currently being used which has not been acquired. The current state of crowding in that wing is not considered safe.

After the next 4 portables are placed, we're not sure where new portables are going. Overcrowding still a serious concern. Running clubs for students is harder because the average duty required of teachers is 90 minutes compared to 40 elsewhere to supervise everything.

Some students don't have lockers.

Looking at more letter writing. Matthew S. looking for stats and will look into it with the District.

6 New Teachers hired. Now at 155 staff including all staff. Student population is approximately 1570.

c. Staff Appreciation Week Feb 12-16

This went very well. Many gifts and treats for staff.

DEC offered breakfast on Friday for staff.

d. Staff Meeting Today - Wabanaki Framework, Course Selection

e. RCMP Presentation are coming in

i. First Period Grade 12

ii. Second Period Grade 11

iii. Period 5 Grade 10

iv. Period 6 Grade 9

Topics will include internet safety, driving safety, community issues.

f. Cultural Week

A. Discussion on documents 'Building a better education system' and 'Long-term recommendations for New Brunswick's Anglophone Education System.'

What should be included in a provincial action plan on chronic absenteeism?

- Start by looking at method of collecting data on absences, as data is not always accurate.
- Discussion - Bringing back exemptions for good attendance, which were eliminated during COVID
- Re-Institute alternate education spot for students who have a hard time coming regularly (Night classes, online options, etc.)
- Attendance policy with more teeth. There is no longer consequence for being absent or a formal attendance policy.
- Early intervention with students in K-4 to avoid long-term absenteeism habits.
- Re-Institute 10 Day Policy to have District intervene with kids who have chronic issues.
- Continue efforts to have kids feel included in their school community.
- Pressure government to redraw the lines and reevaluate school capacity

Develop a new classroom model, allocation of staff

- We need more Educational Assistants
- Short Program to train new supply teachers / education assistants
- Recommendation to cap classes at 24 students instead of 29

Tech in Classrooms

- Gaming technology in learning
- Teach kids through technology. Meet kids where they are

- More online courses is not the answer as school performance often suffers. Online courses have huge failure rates.
- Online courses are not engaging
- Using technology in classrooms is good but students need to be in classrooms
- There are currently no functioning smartboards at Moncton High. Ipads with projectors work better. Teachers should obtain Ipads

Middle School Learners - Improving Readiness

- Partnering with Sports and Community Organizations
- Volunteer Opportunities with local sports clubs
- More Mental Health programs
- Promotion of Physical Activity
- Reviewing rules around not promoting learners who haven't attained outcomes
- Requiring more/any homework in middle school to prepare for high school

French Second Language - Graduating with Conversational French

- Mandatory French class suggested from K-12
- Challenges with students whose first language is neither English nor French
- Students coming in need ESL supports before entering high school in the Anglophone system. Some currently entering with no English.
- Some students at MHS are in 1-2 English as an Additional Language (EAL) classes/day and should be exempt from French outcomes

Teacher Recruitment/Retention

- Teachers need support resources. Anglophone East hasn't had a psychologist over 10 years.

- Teacher education needs to be streamlined. Can we make more use of retirees and people with life experience?
- More tools are required for classroom control
- Educational Assistants need to get better training
- Teacher salary review vs. other provinces (currently lowest paid in Canada)

Supports to Help Students Grow and Learn

- Reduce Duplication of Services between districts
- More professional learning time for teachers
- More physical education. Engage community sports programs, other opportunities

Next meeting will be May 16th, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment of Meeting