**First Meeting of the Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) 2015-2016**

Bernice MacNaughton High School (BMHS) Library

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

7pm

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**

1. Carolyn Baer (Outgoing)
2. Shirley Smallwood
3. Jane Coleman
4. Laura Jones
5. Mary-Lynne Borsella
6. Pamela LeBlanc
7. Tuy (David) Dinh
8. Clinton Davis
9. Saly Davis
10. Lisa Buckley
11. Kim Mowat
12. Anna Kelly
13. Pascale LeBrasseur
14. Colleen Dunnet

**Late Arrival**

1. Carlos Lavin

**Regrets**

1. Judy Roper
2. Janyce Arsenault
3. Caroline Friel
4. Dale Hughes
5. Alan Jones, DEC
6. Lynn Murphy-Kaulbeck
7. Luigi Beltempo
8. **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by outgoing Chair, Carolyn Baer at 7:08pm. Members were invited to introduce themselves and to indicate their primary reason for being involved in the PSSC.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Judy was unable to attend. Therefore, the agenda was not presented for approval; however, it was followed in principle.

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes of last meeting (May 2015) were not presented for approval. They will be circulated at next meeting.

1. **Principal’s Report**

In Judy’s absence, Colleen presented the principal’s report.

* The school administration will be focusing on the following high priority areas during the current school year:
  1. Student Dress Code
  2. Student Wellness – Mental Health
  3. Increasing Parent Engagement Levels
* Professional Development Day held on October 9 focused on Mental Health (Module 6) and was deemed of great value by the teaching staff.
* Committee members are encouraged to weigh in on the 10 year Education Plan as proposed by the Department of Education. Add your voice to New Brunswick’s Educational Future at: [www.EducationPlanNB.ca](http://www.EducationPlanNB.ca)
* Training/Refresher for PSSC new and returning members will be held on Tuesday, October 20th, 2015 at 6:30pm at Riverview Middle School. All members are encouraged to attend.
* Progress Reports will be sent home with students this week. Reports are comment based. Report Cards are sent out in November.

1. **Teacher’s Report** (Colleen Dunnet)

* Breakfast program seeking out donations, grant monies and volunteers to help sustain the much valued service being used by many students.
  + PSSC members were asked to play a role in promoting parent/student volunteerism with the breakfast program between 7:30am-9am daily.
  + Members suggested the breakfast program reach out to volunteer based organization for funding opportunities such as:
    1. Men’s Progress Club
    2. Rotary Club
  + Colleen Dunnet is the farm to school representative which promotes local, healthier meal choices at the school cafeteria.
* The GLBTQ group meet every Thursday at lunch in Colleen’s room. The focus is to provide a “safe space” to all its’ members.
  + GBLTA conference entitled “True Colors” is being held in Fredericton this year. It provides a support network to participants who typically experience higher rates of mental health challenges and suicide. Funding may prevent BMHS participation at this well-sought-after workshop.
  + For months now, the school has been waiting for signage from the Anglophone East School District to properly identify the Gender Neutral washrooms at BMHS. It was recommended the District consult the Francophone South School District as they overcame their signage hurdle last year and currently have access to gender neutral washrooms in their high schools. This is an area the PSSC could show it’s support.
* Parent Engagement
  + PSSC members are being asked to work on promoting parent engagement to help sustain the great work currently being done by staff and students on many school based programs. It was suggested parents may not know there is a need or an opportunity for them to volunteer. It was recommended the school focus on communicating the requirements/volunteer opportunities through talk mail and/or other means available to them.

1. **Student’s Report** (see report)

* Laura presented the student activities this year to date. Among other activities, Imagine Action has identified 12 initiatives students will target such as: Spread Happiness; Fundraising for building wells, Engage students to lead activities with seniors at People Park Tower, etc.
* Student’s raised $12,000 for Run for the Cure
* Students collected denim jeans for making shoes, to be sent to Africa
* Students will participate at upcoming Legs for Literacy Marathon on October 25. Proceeds are returned to the school districts in the area.
* No specific support was requested from the PSSC

1. **General Business**

Prior to electing the executive, the floor was open to any questions regarding the PSSC mandate, expectations and/or requirements. General questions pertaining to fundraising, school dances, etc. were addressed.

The following members were self-nominated and later acclaimed:

* Clinton Davis, Chair
* Kim Mowat, Vice Chair
* Shirley Smallwood, Secretary

1. **Old Business**

No old business was addressed

1. **New Business**

No new business was addressed

1. **Other**

* The number of interested PSSC members for this current school year exceeds the legislated maximum of 12. It was decided to confirm attendance/commitment at next meeting where membership will be solidified.
* It was suggested the overcrowding issue at both Evergreen and Northrup Fry (feeder schools) could be followed closely by the PSSC as it could impact the future headcount at BMHS.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

The next meeting date is **Monday, November 23, 2015 at 7pm.**