**MINUTES**

April Meeting of the Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) 2014-2015

Bernice MacNaughton High School (BMHS)

Office Conference Room

Monday, April 27, 2015

7:00 p.m.

**Attendees**

1. Carolyn Baer (Chair) 6. Shirley Smallwood
2. Judy Roper (Principal) 7. Dale Hughes
3. Linda Taylor (Vice-Chair) 8. Anna Kelly
4. Heather Lewis (Teacher Rep) 9. Alan Jones, DEC
5. Pascale LeBrasseur 10. Jane Coleman (Secretary)

**Regrets**  **Absent**

1. Alaina Bui (Student Rep)
2. Mary-Lynne Borsella
3. Jen Steylen

* + - 1. **Call to Order**

Carolyn welcomed all members at 6:55 p.m.

April’s agenda was approved.

Moved Accepted: Shirley Seconded: Linda Motion carried

* + - 1. **Approval of Minutes**

February’s meeting minutes were approved.

Moved Accepted: Heather Seconded: Shirley Motion carried

* + - 1. **Principal’s Report**
* The Reach for the Top team placed second in the provincials that were held in St. John and qualify to attend the Nationals in Toronto.
* The BMHS Robotics team, Mr. Wasson and Mr. Melendy will attend the Robotics East Competition in Halifax this week. The group was interviewed by CTV News, and the event was noted on Breakfast TV.
* Nationwide A.P. exams take place next week: May 4, Chemistry and Psychology; May 5, Calculus
* Mr. Bowser is busy with scheduling. Not enough kids want A.P. English, so it will not be offered. The other three-Chemistry, Psychology and Calculus-will be.
* The New York trip leaves tomorrow evening with Mr. Brooks and the theater teacher.
* The Provincial Drama Festival is May 6 in Fredericton.
* There are 25 teaching days before final exams.
* May Day (Hay Day: theme is country and western) is Wednesday, April 29
* Subject Council is Friday, May 1, for all teachers. BMHS is hosting the event for high school teachers.
* NBTA Branch day is in the morning of May 15. P.D. is in the afternoon.

OCA testing for grades 9 will have taken place by then, and some teachers will be marking the tests during the afternoon while the other teacher will be involved with P.D.

* The staffing process for next year is underway. Student numbers are down. As a result, BMHS will have fewer staff. None of the final decisions have been made with regard to guidance and the educational support team. Some teachers who are out on secondment may be back in the fall. As well, students sign up in the summer, and exchange students arrive in the fall so even though the number of students attending a particular school is accessed in April, the actual number who will be attending in the fall is not known until then. Five teachers on staff are schedule D teachers and will be evaluated by this Thursday. These teachers are not considered in the mix.
* The province is doing field testing this month in science, math and French for grade 10 students. This is brand new, but BMHS has not yet received the documentation.
* The district is looking at the school’s portal. One portal is called School Profile and another is School Data. This should be a resource that makes documentation more accessible. Judy has invited the district team to train her leadership team. They will then present it to the staff before the end of the year. The leadership team also wants to relook at the school improvement plan. Shirley noted that supporting the administration as it works on the improvement plan falls under the PSSC’s responsibilities.
* The camera project has been completed. Cameras are now in every area of the school and have proven to be useful.
* Judy is looking at updating the sign on St. George Street. She did her homework and received $10,000. The sign will cost $35,000.

1. **Teachers’ Report**

* Nathasha LeBlanc, who is the Reach for the Top teacher mentor, wondered if the PSSC had any fundraising ideas.
* Student Council raised $750 for Jump Start, a program that helps underprivileged youth participate in sports.
* Paulette Diotte has been in charge of the yearbook for the last three years. Her yearbook has been nominated for the North American Look Book Award from Jostens. This is quite an honour.
* Three grade 11 students will be going to Shad Valley this summer to attend the prestigious leadership camp that is held at Lakehead, Laval and UBC.
* Thursday of last week, BMHS held a MacNaugthon Reads evening as part of the Frye Festival: original short stories, poetry, and music. Connie Corbett organizes it as a way to help students prepare for Café Underground, which is a much larger event held for all high schools.
* This Wednesday and Thursday, a couple of authors will be at BMHS. Jacques Poitras will be in the library talking about his book *Irving vs. Irving*. The second author Craig Davidson is a Giller Prize Winner for his book *Cataract City.*
* Grade 9 and 10 students now have the book *The Humans*, and students who have read the book are welcome to attend the Skype date with the author.
* ELPA results are coming in soon. Based on grade 9 students’ success, a new course called Learning Strategies is being offered to help students who may have difficulty with reading comprehension.
* A cafeteria clean-up initiative has started as a result of a number of students who are not cleaning up before leaving the cafeteria. The resource students clean up the cafeteria after lunch, and the amount of garbage that was being left was increasing. This was not the right message, so the six student leadership teams have been taking turns to gently remind students to throw out their garbage. This seems to be helping.
* Farm to School has been up and running since mid-April. More and more students seem to be choosing the salad bar. There have been a few bumps, but overall, it is going well.
* The garden had a bit of damage from snow off the roof. All funds have been spent, so Heather is looking for grants that she can apply for and asked the PSSC to keep an eye open, too. Cathy Rogers has suggested that there might be some money available.
* The speech competitions were held last week in the auditorium. There were many great speeches, and the two grade 11 students who won at the school level will be attending the district competition in May. Two students competed in the spoken word competition. Both will be going to the district competition.
* ImaginAction and Clans have been raising money for Free the Children, They attended We Day, and ImaginAction has been selling smoothies on Thursdays. All funds will go to Free the Children to help build a well and supply a school in Africa. So far, they have raised $1000. The goal is $6000.
* Shirley suggested that the PSSC send accolades to Ms. Diotte for her nomination, and she wondered what the operational budget would be for the garden. Heather said that they have some seeds, the soil and the infrastructure, but the gardens need to be fertilized and have compost added, As well she would like to buy seeds. The ultimate goal would be to become self-sustainable by growing plants in the green house and selling them. She thought that a $500 pot would be above and beyond what the garden would need annually. The food that was grown this past year went to the school’s soup program and to the food bank. The culinary tech is using the two composters that were purchased, but two will not produce enough for all the beds, and it will take at least a year for the compost to be ready for use.

1. **Student Report**

* A book sale is being held in the library, May 19-21.
* Donations are accepted up to May 8.
* The book sale will be open to parents.
* Various Facebook pages are available for BMHS, Chemistry, ImaginAction, Student Council.

Good resource for students

* The prom theme is enchanted forest.
* Through ImaginAction, Rachel Cohen has a promotion going called Pay It Forward. She and other group members are posting nice notes on students’ lockers as positive feedback.
* Four girls will be retiring from the senior basketball team this year.
* A walk for Alzheimers is happening on May 31.
* BMHS cheerleaders won silver.
* Preparation for the dragon boat race is underway.

1. **Career Day**

* It was decided that Career Day would not be held this year. Linda mentioned that Mary-Lynne expressed her interest in having Linda’s information. Linda will also be available if needed.

1. **General Business**

* Carolyn noted that the PSSC will need a new chair and vice-chair in the fall and asked members to think about possibly taking on these roles. Judy mentioned that the district team was at BMHS to do a walk around the property evaluating the lighting situation and where more lighting is required.
* Shirley mentioned that one morning, three cars quickly passed her while she was waiting in the line-up and proceeded to park along the roadway. While getting out, they did not seem to pay any heed to the oncoming traffic. She hoped that students would be reminded of the drive through etiquette.
* Pascale noted that she is still in contact with Denise and will proceed with the survey she and Sheri MacLeod had prepared for exceptional students and their parents/guardians even though the committees are no longer in place.
* Jane has forwarded the PSSC survey link to the 10 year reunion committee chair and to Sue Lockwood to pass the info on to the 2015 grads.
* Shirley asked Alan Jones if the DEC is privy to anything resulting from the recent budget cuts

to education. The DEC has requested to meet with the Minister who has spoken about a 3.5 percent raise in the budget, but has asked schools to cut 10 or 11 percent of their budgets. Shirley would like to know

* + - what the government’s action plan is
    - what roles will be cut
    - From a DEC perspective, are we taking the budget that the government is giving?
* Alan explained that the government presents the budget and that is what schools have. He also explained that the DEC wants to know what is going on in Fredericton. Our district has many teachers who will soon be retiring, and the fear is that they will not be replaced.
* Shirley would like to dialogue with the PSSC to see what questions the committee would like to ask. Shirley will not be at the next meeting, but will send her questions; the committee will review them and add others if needed before submitting them to Alan.

1. **Old Business**

Linda had checked the PSSC link today and found that the old info was still there. Others noted that they had seen the updated info after Anna updated the site. Judy will get Bob to check into it.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Monday, May 25, from 7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m. in the office conference room.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by Pascale and seconded by Anna.