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

Bernice MacNaughton High School (BMHS) Library

Monday, January 18th, 2015

7pm

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members**

1. Judy Roper, Principal
2. Clinton Davis, Chair
3. Kim Mowat , Vice Chair
4. Shirley Smallwood, Secretary
5. Dale Hughes, Parent
6. Pascale LeBrasseur, Parent
7. Pam LeBlanc, Parent
8. Carlos Lavin, Parent
9. Colleen Dunnet, Teacher Representative
10. Mary-Lynn Borsella, Parent
11. Laura Jones, Student Representative

**Regrets**

1. Tuy Dinh (David), Parent
2. Anna Kelly, Parent

**Guests**

1. Jane Coleman, Parent
2. Janyce Arsenault, Parent
3. Lisa Buckley, Parent
4. Saly Davis, Parent
5. **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Clinton Davis at 7:06 pm. Attendance confirmed.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda reviewed by Chair. No additions to the agenda.

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes of the May 2015; October 2015 and November 2015 meetings were approved with corrections.

Minutes from May 25, 2015: **Moved by Dale; Seconded by Pascale**

Minutes from October 13, 2015: **Moved by: Carlos; Seconded by Pam.**

Minutes from November 23, 2015: **Moved by: Pascale; Seconded by Kim.**

1. **Principal’s Report**

Judy provides the principal’s report.

Judy invited the 6 SPRs (Supervisory Positions of Responsibility) to set up kiosks to showcase their roles and respective curriculum including departmental goals. It was viewed as a great opportunity to address questions from a PSSC perspective. Some of the SPRs are involved in the action committees working towards the school improvement plan.

Meeting temporarily suspended to allow members to visit the kiosks.

Members regrouped at 8:35pm to address the remaining agenda items.

After visiting the kiosks, Clinton encourages members to share their thoughts that could inspire the school improvement plan by email clintondavis@outlook.com.

The group expressed great appreciation for this unique opportunity, recognizing SPRs like the principle and the teacher representative, had been at school since early morning.

**Teacher’s Report**

To help establish guidelines around the three main objectives of the School Improvement Plan, Diverse Focus Groups (Action Committees) were created. Each group is comprised of one teacher volunteer and a small group of students. Updates are provided to the PSSC Teacher Representative.

1. **Parent Engagement:** Due to the mandatory police background check requirement, getting parents involved in the lunch program has been somewhat difficult. School is looking at options in order to make the process a bit more seamless for parents.
2. **Student Dress Code:** Dress code will be more about expression rather than specific clothing and/or gender. A template is currently being elaborated by the group who will be meeting again at next Professional Development Day. They want to avoid making a policy that is trend-specific while keeping accessibility in mind. Great discussions are ongoing.
3. **Student Wellness – Mental Health:** Copies of important resources were made available to members on how parents can help their children with mental health issues. A copy of the Healthy School Planner is also available for parents and on the AESD website.

AESD is also sponsoring a community mental health seminar at the Riverview High School on January 20th starting at 7pm. It will focus on how to maintain Mental Health.

**Student’s Report**

Laura provided a report on student activities since last PSCS meeting held in November 2015.

* Student Government created a group called the *Highlanders’ Holiday Helpers* to encourage students to help out over the Holidays.
	+ They organized a Christmas Carolling for seniors activity.
* Collected 35 turkeys for the Sue Stultz Turkey Drive.
* Girl basketball team fundraised to purchase items for a local deserving family in need and delivered the goods during the holidays.
* BMHS collected 6,299 lbs of non-perishable food items for the Fill the Bus Campaign.
* Drama put on their performance Shrek the Musical.
* Student Government put on a successful Winter Formal.
* Imagine Action painted the cafeteria garbage cans blue and green to signify wet/dry.
* Imaging Action along with Mr. Trider secured $500 in grant monies for the implementation of a compost system within school.
* Imagine Action students attended a mental health summit and they are currently looking at starting a peer mentor program (in collaboration with guidance) for students who may need extra support.

**Old Business**

1. Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement refers to university level courses that are sometimes offered to grade 12 students, typically in the second semester. BMHS is currently offering AP Calculus in the second semester and for the first time BMHS offered AP Psychology in the first semester. Contrary to popular belief AP courses are not part of the provincial curriculum. Any school offering the courses are strategically finding ways to do “more with less” as they face budget cuts. It is important to note:

* AP Courses are not funded by AESD nor the Department of Education
* It takes approximately 0.25 of a FTE to teach one section of an AP course
* Takes resources away from other high school level courses
* Only 3% of BMHS grade 12 students express interest in following AP courses
* BMHS and MHS are the only 2 High Schools in AESD currently offering AP courses
* Students from other schools will often call BMHS in hopes of following AP courses on site

PSSC could consider making a recommendation to have the AP courses offered at the District level, perhaps on a Saturday when students from all schools could attend. For further discussion.

**New Business**

1. Low Level Threat Assessment – Protocol

A parent expressed concerns to Dale regarding:

* Definition of “Risk Assessment”. Parent didn’t feel it was clear enough
* Timeline regarding communication. Length of time it took for parents to become informed.
* Attendance issue. Felt it created uneasiness for students in attendance to have so many who were not.

The same parent also suggested an increased communication plan would be warranted to address similar issues in the future.

It was also noted the Threat Assessment Policy dates back to 2007. A member of the PSSC is questioning if this policy needs revision.

After listening to the feedback, Judy informed the members she was instructed by the RCMP and AESD to limit the information that could be communicated on this low level threat.

The PSSC recognized the principal and staff for the long hours, up to 16 hours most days while successfully achieving a level of normalcy in the school. Although still under investigation, everyone recognizes the positive outcome and a round of applauds ensued.

Clinton welcomes any agenda items to help best support the school improvement plan

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

**Next meeting is scheduled on Monday March 14 at 7pm in the school library.**