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

Bernice MacNaughton High School (BMHS) Library

Monday, March 14th, 2016

7pm

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members**

1. Judy Roper, Principal
2. Clinton Davis, Chair
3. Kim Mowat , Vice Chair
4. Shirley Smallwood, Secretary
5. Pascale LeBrasseur, Parent
6. Pam LeBlanc, Parent
7. Mary-Lynn Borsella, Parent
8. Laura Jones, Student Representative

**Regrets**

1. Tuy Dinh (David), Parent
2. Anna Kelly, Parent
3. Dale Hughes, Parent
4. Carlos Lavin, Parent
5. Colleen Dunnet, Teacher Representative

**Guests**

1. Janyce Arsenault, Parent
2. Lisa Buckley, Parent

3. Lynn Murphy-Kaulbeck, Parent

1. **Call to Order**

Clinton called the meeting to order at 7:08pm. All participants were welcomed.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda was approved with the additions of Mr. Adam Trider addressing the group and Communications being addressed under Parent Engagement.

Moved by Mary Lynn

Seconded by Pam

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes of the January 18, 2016 meeting were approved with the following edit:

“It takes 0.25 of FTE to teach 1 section of each AP course”

Moved by Shirley

Seconded by Pascale

1. **Principal’s Report** (Judy)

There have been a limited number of school days (24) since last PSSC meeting; therefore report will be brief.

* 1. **Mental Health**
     1. Monthly news flashes are being posted on AESD website on lifestyle and the belief that healthy learners equal better learners, as promoted by DHAC
     2. On January 20th, AESD hosted a mental health seminar at Riverview High School at 7pm on *How to Maintain Mental Health*
     3. On February 24th, AESD in partnership with St Thomas University hosted a conference on Diversity at the Moncton Coliseum. Over 100 students attended from the 8 high schools in our district. Three BMHS teachers attended with students. Sessions included:
        1. Why Mental Health Matters
        2. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
        3. Culture, Racism and Stereotypical Behaviour
     4. A teacher is overseeing a group of students who are leading an awareness campaign on mental health. They are establishing peer-to-peer program to identify and assist those who may need support. Referrals are made by teachers, guidance and students themselves (self-referrals).
     5. Group of student requested the *Tell Them For Me* (TTFM) student wellness data from Principal.
     6. On May 3rd, a conference on student mental health will be hosted by DOTSNB and Partners for Youth. It is being held in Fredericton. Costs are related to travel and lodging.
     7. Next PD Day (April) will focus on the “Changing Minds” program. It’s a 16 hour in-service on mental health. All teachers and EAs will attend.
  2. **Parent Engagement**
     1. Mr. Trider addressed the PSSC. He shared with the group an initiative currently underway seeking staff feedback on the greatest fundraising needs at BMHS. Once the need is identified, it is hoped that parents will get involved and spearhead the initiative; much like the Friends of the Highlanders did for the football field. To that end, it was suggested the school consider striking up a Parent Engagement Group for which Lynn Murphy-Kaulbeck agreed to help conceptualize.
     2. It is felt that the school would attract more parent volunteers if the back ground check process was less cumbersome. Perhaps can consider engaging Brian Butler, a retired police officer working as a consultant with AESD, to facilitate the screening process. Perhaps at “meet the teacher”.
     3. Communications: Clinton will connect with Steve Cormier, SPR to further discuss how current BMHS social media tools could help with parent engagement.
  3. **Dress Code**
     1. No news to report. Committee will be meeting on April 8th to focus on drafting a dress code policy for BMHS.

1. **Teacher’s Report** (presented by Judy in Colleen’s absence)

* Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein came highly recommended by Rothesay High School. Author will be interviewed by students via skype after BMHS finishes reading the book. PSSC budget ($400) was allocated to purchasing additional books upon AESD approval.
* Novel focuses on mental health resilience as experience through a formula race driver and narrated through his dog. A copy was made available to the PSSC members.

1. **Student’s Report (Laura)**

* 25 BMHS students participated in the “Coldest Night of the Year” fundraiser to help support Youth Impact
* Various leadership groups keeping cafeteria clean at lunchtime
* Grad committee will be participating in the dragon boat fundraising event in June
* Peer-to-Peer discussions have started with guidance counselors.
* Student Government put on a graffiti dance. Securing volunteer chaperones proved to be challenging
* Price of chocolate milk is going up in the cafeteria by 5 cents
* Farm to school salad bar has been available to students and staff since January

1. **Old Business** 
   1. Ideas to best support school improvement plan
      1. No ideas have been submitted to Clinton since last meeting. A great suggestion was made at tonight’s meeting regarding striking a parent engagement committee to spearhead some of the fundraising projects being proposed. The regular use of talk mail and facilitating volunteer back ground checks were highly supported during the meeting.
   2. Approach to supporting AP courses at BMHS
      1. AP Calculus 120 will be offered to all students of AESD at beginning of next school year. What, When, Who, and How is not yet identified by the District.
      2. As a reminder, AP courses are not funded by the Department of Education nor are they part of the NB prescribed curriculum.
      3. AP courses count as an elective for graduation
      4. AP courses are recognized by *SOME* universities as credits.
      5. Clinton, in collaboration with Judy, will formulate an appropriate response for parents inquiring about AP course availability. Liz Nowlan is the AESD liaison.
2. **New Business**

A newly arrived Syrian student will be starting grade 9 at BMHS tomorrow.

* 1. The student will be accompanied by a translator.
  2. Mr. Harris is coordinating the arrival.
  3. The student has not been in school since grade 7.

1. **Other**

Mr. Trider addressed the PSSC during the principal’s report portion of the agenda. Please see Parent Engagement.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51PM.

**Next meeting will take place on Monday, April 25, 2016 in the school library starting at 7pm.**