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

Bernice MacNaughton High School (BMHS) Library

Monday, November 23rd, 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. Tuy Dinh (David), Parent
7. Pascale LeBrasseur, Parent
8. Pam LeBlanc, Parent
9. Anna Kelly, Parent
10. Carlos Lavin, Parent
11. Colleen Dunnet, Teacher Representative

**Regrets**

1. Mary-Lynn Borsella, Parent
2. Laura Jones, Student Representative

**Others**

1. Alan Jones, DEC
2. Nancy McWilliam, Parent
3. Lynn Murphy-Kaulbeck, Parent
4. Patricia Button, Parent
5. Jane Coleman, Parent
6. Janyce Arsenault, Parent
7. Lisa Buckley, Parent
8. Luigi Beltempo, Parent
9. Saly Davis, Parent
10. Caroline Friel, Parent
11. **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Clinton Davis at 7:00 pm. Membership for BMHS PSSC 2015-2016 was confirmed. All present were invited to introduce themselves and share the primary reason for their interest in the PSSC.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

No additions to the agenda

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes of last meetings (May 2015; October 2015) were not tabled for approval. This will be done at next meeting.

1. **PSSC Mandate**

Shirley highlighted key elements of the PSSC mandate as described in the Parent School Support Committee Handbook (revised September 2013). All members were provided with the link to the handbook on November 22, 2015 via email.

* PSSC is a committee with a legislative mandate to provide the school administration with advise/recommendations on the school improvement plan, and as required by the principal.
* PSSC members do not provide advice/recommendations based on the needs of their respective children, but rather on the objectives of the school improvement plan.

1. **Principal’s Report**

Judy provides the principal’s report.

* BMHS demographics include 805 students and 80 staff (55 teachers; 18 educational assistants; 7 custodians).
* The school improvement plan will focus 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
* Judy may invite the SPR’s to introduce themselves and share initiatives underway in their roles at BMHS
* ELPA/French results have been fairly consistent over last 3 years scoring above district and provincial averages.
* Colleen adds the ELPA is currently undergoing major changes. Written comprehension component of the assessment is being phased out. Although no explanation has been provided from the District, it is felt that budget limitations may be at play.
* Student Wellness - Mental Health is garnishing lots of support within the school. Certain students are benefiting from a reduced schedule allowing some courses to be completed on line. In addition:
  + Learning Centre within the school is staffed by resource teachers
    - Peer tutors, supervised by resource teachers, work with students at lunch time
    - Certain grade 12 students may use centre for study period (not free period)
    - Peer tutors may also work with students 3 periods a week
  + Severe Attendance issues are addressed by holding a parent conference meeting.
  + There is an increased demand for addiction counsellor, currently onsite 1 x week on Wednesdays
  + The sexual health Nurse Practitioner is on site every Friday
  + Anxiety and depression group meet in guidance office during a particular class at a time determined by guidance
  + Youth wellness summit (15-20 student attended summit at Wesleyan with Wellness teacher)
  + Best buddies program underway
  + Yoga mats were purchased. Teacher will lead yoga classes for students with anxiety
  + Weight room is opened 3xweek under the supervision of Bob Bowser. Constructive way for students to work out aggression and stay engaged during lunch time.
* BMHS continues to work closely with community agencies
  + Probationary officers
  + Wellness Centre (Mental Health Agency providing free counselling to youth)
* McNaughton Reads – Art of Racing in the Rain (books donated by school in Saint John)
* Attendance is problematic (closely tied to personal and mental health issues). Approximately 75-100 students are being closely monitored for attendance.
  + Drug consumption is on the rise and is very common among high school students
  + Judy reached out to the District RCMP consultant / addictions counsellor to organize a focus group for staff
* Although serious problems exist, the student body as a whole is very respectful. Many good programs and initiatives are currently underway in the school.
* Alan Jones adds: AESD has mental health policy. It’s the only district in the province with a policy on mental health. Policy is available on their website.
  + A 16 hour in-service is made available to 1,700 staff members including bus drivers, janitors, etc.
    - General background information on mental health is provided
  + In-service is also tailored for students from K to 9 to help build coping skills early on
  + Out of a $33K budget, the DEC has allocated up to $25K on mental health initiatives

**Student’s Report**

Colleen presents the student’s report on Laura’s behalf.

* Since last meeting the following activities have been successfully organized:
  + Grad breakfast at Jean’s Restaurant on Mountain Road
  + First assembly followed by Corn boil in the evening
  + First Green and White Student dance, security was provided
  + Student cheering squad at Legs for Literacy marathon
  + Senior boys soccer team brought home the provincial banner
  + Boys hockey team won its first tournament in 7 years
  + Imagine action continues to sell smoothies at lunch to raise money for philanthropic initiatives
  + Fill the bus campaign underway
  + Harry Potter theme night
  + Diversity and Respect week
    - Sticky notes were put on every single locker in the school posting such things as: you are valued, you are a great friend, etc.
    - A video was made on respect and acceptance by one of our students. Posted on Youtube
    - Blue and Pink day to increase awareness and support of our transgender community and to remember lives that have been lost due to transphobia
    - Blood drive was organized by Nancy Sheridan. Students were able to donate blood
    - BMHS will have a float in the Santa Clause parade

**Teacher’s Report**

* Colleen met with the District Community Coordinator, Julie Roy MacAdam to garnish support for various programs currently underway at BMHS
* Colleen also met with Heather Stordy and 2 other parents to support the breakfast program. Once the breakfast program is running independently, Colleen will focus her efforts on starting a lunch program as requested by students
* In collaboration with Mary-Lynn Borsella, a letter of sponsorship request was sent to NBCC
* Teacher, Heather Lewis, who will be returning to BMHS after the Christmas break is looking forward to continuing the farm to school program
* Poetry InVoice starts this week (English, French, and Bilingual). A great opportunity for students to win an all-expense paid trip to Toronto and a chance to win $5K
* Including inclusion
  + Lesson plans to pair up with students who work with the those identified as having learning needs
  + Social skills based
  + Students have to chronicle their experience working with a student with needs
* Knitting and film-making programs open to students who may not have anywhere to go or anyone to be with at lunchtime
* Signage is now available for a newly designated bathroom for our transgender community

**General Business**

Newly Arrived Citizens

* The Greater Moncton Area is anticipating 300 Syrian Refugees, expected to arrive by the end of the month. They will be granted full refugee status and will arrive into sponsorship homes within the GMA. Syrians are well-educated individuals who will be integrated into our school system soon after arrival. Due to the traumatic events left behind, our newly arrived students will need much care and support. Judy has not received any word from the District in terms of students entering BMHS. PSSC will follow this closely to ensure both the newly arrived and the school administrators/teachers have what they need to succeed.

10 Year Education Plan

* The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is seeking PSSC input into a 10 year education plan. Although some individual parents have provided input; it has been decided BMHS PSSC will not be submitting feedback due to the short timeline for which is not conducive to preparing a well thought out response. The school will send out another talk mail encouraging individual parents to respond prior to the November 30th deadline.

Parent Engagement

* Clinton will work with Anna to formulate a proposal on reallocating part of the PSSC communication budget to promoting parent engagement online. The proposal should include the objective, cost and resources required to keep the “tool” alive. If the proposal is complete prior to next meeting, the members will be asked to provide their vote/feedback via email. If not, it will be presented at next PSSC meeting.

**Adjournment**

* Due to time constraints, agenda item number 9 (Old Business), 10 (New Business) and 11 (Other) are being moved to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm, seconded by Carlos.

**Next meeting is scheduled on Monday, January 18th at 7pm in the school library.**