**MINUTES**

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

Bernice MacNaughton High School (BMHS)

School Library

Monday, September 29, 2014

7:00 p.m.

**Attendees**

1. Carolyn Baer (Chair)
2. Judy Roper (Principal) 6. Mary Lynne Borsella
3. Heather Lewis (Teacher Rep) 7. Dale Hughes
4. Jen Steylen 8. Jane Coleman (Secretary)
5. Pascale LeBrasseur

**Guests**

* + - 1. Alan Jones, DEC

**Regrets**  **Absent**

1. Anna Kelly 1. Clinton Davis
2. Linda Taylor 2. Saly Davis
3. Shirley Smallwood
	* + 1. **Call to Order**

Carolyn welcomed all members.

September’s agenda was approved.

Moved Accepted: Mary Lynne; Seconded: Alan Jones Motion carried

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

May’s meeting minutes were approved.

Moved Accepted: Heather Seconded: Mary Lynne Motion carried

* + - 1. **Teachers’ Report**
* Drama is in full force. This year the musical is Carrie. Jen Steylin relayed concerns from parents with whom she works about the choice. Judy invited any concerned parents to contact her. The play will be presented at the end of November.
* OCAs (Ontario Comprehension Assessment) were completed today for grade 9 and 10 English. They will be marked during PD day on Friday, October 10.
* Many activities are going on at lunch time and after school.
* The garden was a success this summer. Heather took vegetables from it to the food bank over the summer. She is hoping to have greater community involvement next summer and is thinking of asking at People’s Park Tower or Small Blessings to see if anyone is interested. Heather used seeds from the *Plant a Row, Grow a Row* program that Linda Taylor had given her.

Students from the Environmental Science, Culinary Arts and Resource programs are going out to harvest the food. Culinary Arts is using the vegetables to make soups.

* Heather just received the $10,000 cheque for the Farm to School grant. As a result, BMHS will be partnering up with local farmers in second semester. At least fifty percent of the food is to be local and to be served twice a week. The Culinary Arts students will also be involved with food preparation. Hopefully, there will be a salad bar and a hot soup made at least once a week. Heather is fairly impressed with the improved menu that Chartwells is serving. It, too, is on a pilot project this year. The feedback from students and staff on the quality and price of the cafeteria food is positive.
1. **Principal’s Report**
* The new chef in the cafeteria and Ms. Kim Doiron in the office are part of the Chartwells’ pilot project. The weekly menu is on the school website. Judy would like to place the menu on the TV screens.
* The culinary arts area is under renovation with Patrick Watt in charge of the project. Judy is thrilled to have his help. The school is hoping to attract more students into the program.
* The attendance policy was updated over the summer. The district has allowed for some FTE (full-time equivalent) to be in charge of tracking the data. BMHS has its own person who is working on this every afternoon. He has gone back five years to look at patterns. Judy will be inviting him to speak to the PSSC once everything is up and running. They have already flagged about 100 students who have attendance issues. This teacher will come face to face with the top 30 students to help them.
* The big focus this year is co-teaching, the inclusion model. All schools have received in-service training. Judy was able to tweak her scheduling to permit three teachers to work with other teachers. The teachers are sharing the lesson plans, and all involved-students and staff- are happy with the experience. Next semester, she hopes to have more on board.
* The late assessment policy has been updated so that students are forced to meet deadlines or deal with the immediate consequences. There is now a penalty, so students are passing their major assignments in on time. Parents have been supportive.

**Committee Reports**

The purpose of each committee was reviewed for Dale, our new PSSC member.

1. **Health and Wellness:**
* This committee wrote the ‘Did you knows’ for the talk mail and the school TV screen as well as a PowerPoint presentation on sexting, which will be shown on the TV screens during Parent/Teacher interviews. Brian Butler had done a presentation to the PSSC on sexting last year. He has volunteered to go into the grade 9 classes to talk about sexting and other issues. The schools no longer have the DARE program in the lower grades.
1. **Education Outcomes:**
* This committee put a survey together to pole alumni and the current grads to see how well they were prepared for life after high school.
1. **Communications:**
* Anna is the only member. They have a Facebook page and Twitter account.
1. **Environment:**
* This involves the garden and the Farm to School program.
1. **Exceptional Students:**
* Pascale has touched base with Cherie. They have prepared a survey for parents and exceptional students to help determine their needs with the intent of making improvements within the school. There are currently360-370 students who fall under this category.
1. **Old Business**
* The PSSC made a donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation on behalf of Campbell Howell who passed away this summer.
* Carolyn has not yet seen the results from Career Day. Steve Harris has them. The school is thinking of pushing Career Day even earlier this year.
1. **General Business**
* On October 6, there will be PSSC training at Riverview Middle School at 6:30 p.m.
* Campbell Howell’s name needs to be removed as a PSSC committee member.
1. **New Business**
* Judy asked if we could meet every six weeks:
	+ November 10
	+ January 12
	+ February 23
	+ April 13
	+ May 25
* Mary-Lynne will speak with Gabbie Mockler who had indicated last year that she would like to participate on the PSSC.
1. **Next Meeting**
* The next meeting will be Monday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m. in the office conference room.
1. **Adjournment**
* The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by Alan and seconded by Pascale.