

# School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Location: MRHS Library

Date: 9 Oct 2024

Time: 3:30 pm

Attendees: Staff—Principal Rushton, Mrs. Steel-Wood  
Student representation—Megan McCurdy, Lauren Smith  
Community representation—Sharon Arsenault  
Parent representation—Anne Warburton, Erin Smith, Danielle Root, Percilla Keizer

Regrets: Staff-Vice Principal Paddock, Angela MacKenzie,  
Parent representation—Andrea Payne, Melissa Bonnell, Peter Kozier

## Discussion items

1. Call to order
2. Approval of meeting agenda
3. Selection of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary-Deferred to November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting due to lack of quorum.
4. Student Report from Student Council Co-Presidents
  - a. Please see attached
  - b. Effort will be made to connect the MRHS Facebook and Instagram accounts. Currently Principal Rushton, Mrs. Steel-Wood, and student council rep Janeka Deal have admin privileges.
    - Will add student council rep Brent (sports lead) to admin so that he can post sport-related announcements and game results.
    - We'll link the MRHS sports calendar to the forthcoming Musquodoboit Valley (MV) website's community calendar OR ask Brent (or another MRHS rep) to post to the MV site upcoming games as a means of inviting community members to come show their support and Mustang Spirit!
5. SAC Report
  - c. Proposed by-law amendment: increase number of parent seats on SAC to seven (currently four). Confirmed this *would be* allowed within HRCE SAC policy (i.e., SACs may have up to 18 members with no more than 50% of the seats being parents).
  - d. Proposed by-law amendment: Change terms of community members to 3 years with option to renew.
  - e. Have requested specific feedback on our unsuccessful Innovation Fund application. Will reapply in Spring 2025.
6. O2 Report
  - f. Please see attached

- g. Take away message: wonderful program with strong participation this year, and the SAC and MRHS ought to look to partner with them for service projects for school and community.

## 7. Principal's Report

- h. Please see attached.
- i. Suggestion that MRHS coordinate curriculum night with MVEC; offsetting hours so parents have enough time at both, or host on separate nights.

## 8. Unfinished Business

- j. Writers in the Schools - Mrs. Steel-Wood and Mrs. Katelyn Wade are arranging this.
  - Danielle Root suggests invited authors include those who are of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry, even if the Writers in Schools Society does not have such membership currently.
- k. Peer Mentorship Program - Still under investigation.
- l. Revival of Thoughtful Food Project
  - Agreed we'd like to offer a community meal in December. Will be a turkey dinner.
- m. Sport related:
  - Working to improve communication w/ parents; dates for whole season shared with families and community as soon as available.
  - Alumni Tourney as fundraiser to offset sport fees (\$10/team-3 point tourney, \$4 entry)
  - HRCE has been requested to properly hang banners in gym.
  - Spring Marathon in partnership with Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society. 50/50 split of profits. MRHS profits to go toward gym improvements (e.g., floor refinish), sporting equipment upgrades, and potentially assist with sporting fees.
  - Alerted HRM of need to address drainage in soccer field. Councilor Deagle-Gammon has asked the HRM Parks Capital Team to provide details on when they last assessed the field, given that they currently do not have it on their list of capital projects to be budgeted for.
  - Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> community clean-up day for local ball field. Successful reclamation of this field means MRHS teams could use it in the Spring.
  - Confirmed that our SAC *is* still interested in pursuing bleachers for the soccer field. Discussion tabled until next meeting.
  - Confirmed that our SAC *is* still interested in pursuing skill building help for track team. Discussion tabled until future meeting.

- MRHS will send out Thank you cards to all sponsors and donors who made the new school uniforms possible. Suggestion made to include in card a photo of uniform being worn, and information on how to learn the season schedule.
- n. Confirmed that our SAC *is* still interested in pursuing an outdoor structured natural learning space (e.g., amphitheater/classroom).
- o. MVCA trade show would like to collaboratively host trade show with MRHS. Discussion tabled until future meeting.

9. New Business:

10. AOB: Next meeting November 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 in the MRHS Library

11. Adjournment (4:45)

Action items	Who	Timing
Submit proposed by-law changes to the Regional Executive Director	Anne W.	Before Oct 24
Contact Trevor Cunningham, Regional Education Officer, to discuss by-law change to ensure our SAC can meet quorum without support staff present (i.e., consistent participation of support staff currently challenging for us).	Anne W.	Before Oct 24
Arrange for Writers in Schools program	Mrs. Steel-Wood	TBD
Peer Mentorship Program	Sharon Arsenault investigating in collaboration with Schools Plus	n/a
December community meal	Anne W. to seek community financial support and start planning.	ASAP
	Principal Rushton will select the best day for the meal.	ASAP
	Principal Rushton and Anne W. will come up with a proposal for other meals and bring to a future SAC mtg.	By January 8th meeting
Alumni Tourney as fundraiser to offset sport-related student fees	Andrea Payne	TBD

Action items	Who	Timing
Run for the Mustangs - Musquodoboit Valley Marathon in collaboration with the Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society	Initial plan to be presented by Andrea, Sharon & Anne	By January 8 <sup>th</sup> mtg
Pursue HRM Parks Capital Team for drainage improvements to soccer field.	Anne W.	On-going
MRHS to send thank you cards to all sponsors and donors of new sport uniforms	Principal Rushton & Andrea Payne	ASAP
Collect design ideas, and possible funding sources for an outdoor learning space on school grounds.	Danielle Root	On-going
Musquodoboit Valley Trade Show with MRHS student involvement	Sharon Arsenault	TBD
PAUSE for Lunch program continuation	Sharon Arsenault	On-going
Get specific feedback on Innovation Fund Application	Anne Warburton	By November 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting

**Student Council Report: *attached***

**O2 Report:**

- MRHS has a new, lovely O2 group with friendly and enthusiastic students (20 students)
- The students are scheduled to go to NSCC for an Open House at the Pictou campus on October 17.
- Mr. Brodin is currently in the process of scheduling different field trips, including Toromont Cat and Irving Shipyard.
- Mr. Brodin hopes to invite someone from Saint John's Ambulance for First Aid Training soon.
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**SAC- Principal Report**

It's been a great start to the year!

Some important events that have happened so far this year include:

- We are excited to welcome some new staff members to the building this year!

- Mr. Jacob Babin (Jr High, Math/Science)
  - Ms. Anna MacDonald (JH Eng/Soc St & SH)
  - Ms. Kara Hogan (Miss K), Physical Education
  - Ms. Lesley Mackey (Gr. 9 & HS Social St)
  - Ms. Christina Mckay (JH English/Social Studies, SH Child Studies)
- Pink day, Stand up Against Bullying day, happened on September 12 and we had a great participation.
  - Held a Welcome Back BBQ on September 13.
  - Curriculum Night & Ice cream social- September 19, 2024- well attended
  - On September 27, the school participated in Orange shirt day in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We played the Mi'kmaw version of O'Canada. A student read [Rita Joe's I lost my talk poem](#) over the PA system, then a student recited Rebecca Thomas's response "[I'm finding my talk](#)". At the end of the day we played the Honour song.
  - We had bus evacuation practice for Grades 7-9 on October 4
  - We have been practicing our Emergency Management Plan. So far, we have had one Fire drill, one Lockdown drill and one Hold and Secure drill. The RCMP joined us for the Lockdown drill on September 20th. We had one actual Hold & Secure situation for medical reasons as well.
  - Ms. MacKenzie held a Gr. 12 Parent information session on Thursday, October 4th in the evening to answer any questions about what happens in the grade 12 year. As well, there was a representative from Dalhousie, St. Mary's and NSCC on site to answer questions from the parents.

#### Upcoming events:

**-Grade 7 Immunization clinic:** Tuesday Oct 22, 2024

**-The AARAO career fair** is planned to take place in our gymnasium on Monday, September 28th. This event is usually well attended with a variety of career opportunities presented.

**-Working on some school clothing orders & spirit wear-** I hope to have that up soon in school cash for people to have the option to purchase online

#### **HRCE Student Success Planning (SSP):**

**Mathematics:** We will improve student achievement in mathematics, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.

**Literacy Goal:** We will improve student achievement in **literacy**, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.

**Well-Being Goal:** We will improve student well-being, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.

**MRHS Short Cycle Planning:** We are in the beginning stages of our planning at this time with a focus on SSP short-cycle planning at our PD on Friday October 11, and upcoming Department and Staff meetings.

~J. Rushton

**New Business - Grad info and Scholarship/Bursary Info for Potential Grads:**

- Potential Grads have all been invited to join the Grad classroom to receive important information
- Grad classroom provides updates for anything related to the grads-applications, transcripts, open houses, and available scholarships and bursaries, grad and prom info
- At this point in the year, scholarships and bursaries are being offered through outside agents.
- Students who meet the criteria for the award are given the opportunity to apply. (Links and Info in the grad classroom)
- Students can then come see Ms. Mackenzie to forward a transcript if necessary
- These larger types of awards become available all throughout the year and the same process is followed.
- In May, grads will be asked to fill out a google doc to provide information to an awards committee for deciding some of the local awards for graduation in June
- Students will be asked to outline their involvement in activities in and out of the school as well as work and volunteer experiences in an effort to provide the committee with a picture of who they are and what they qualify for.
- Committee consists of Grade 12 teachers. (Every year, any staff member who has a family relationship with a grad recuses themselves from the decision-making process).
- Many local organizations provide the criteria for their award and then receive applications and pick their own successful candidates.
- Students will be reminded of this process, as well as the other important Grad related information at the monthly grad meetings.