

School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Location: MRHS Library

Date: 6 November 2024; Time: 3:30 pm

Attendees:

Staff—Principal Rushton, Angela Mackenzie, Samantha Reid, Emma Horne

Student representation—Megan McCurdy

Community representation—Sharon Arsenault

Parent representation—Anne Warburton, Erin Smith, Percilla Keizer, Melissa Bonnell

Regrets: Staff-Vice Principal Paddock, Cindy Steele Wood

Discussion items

1. Call to order

2. Approval of last meeting's minutes

3. Approval of meeting agenda

4. Selection of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary

Elected: Percilla Keizer, Co-Chair; Sharon Arsenault, Vice Chair; and Secretary, Melissa Bonnell

Not Returning: Andrea Payne, Danielle Root, Deb MacDonald

5. Student Report from Student Council Co-Presidents

a. Please see attached report

b. Band and Student Council students are putting a float in this year's Christmas parade.

c. Katie Probert has ordered coloured shirts for each grade, available to students for Colour Days.

Logos to be decided.

6. SAC Chair Report

a. SAC by-laws -Proposed membership changes sent to Regional Executive Director approved.

"Membership: The Musquodoboit Rural High School Advisory Council will have 17 voting members which shall include 7 parents/guardians, 4 community members, 2 teachers, 2 support staff and 2 students." The principal or the vice-principal shall be present and are non-voting.:

i. This change marks an increase in parent guardian representation from 4 to 7.

ii. Currently have 5 parents/guardians

b. Confirmed that terms for community members are two years but may be renewed for three consecutive terms.

c. "...quorum will consist of a minimum of 8 of the SAC voting members present and shall include a min of one parent, one teacher *or* support staff, one student and one community member.

7. O2 Report

- a. Please see attached report
- b. Opportunity for student-led engagement and proposal regarding future long-term use of existing Gold Mine site. Deadlines for proposals to be determined, and estimated for the end of December, 2024.
 - i. \$1,000 grant is available to MRHS for submitting an application and an opportunity for \$25 000 to the school with a successful application.

8. Principal's Report

- a. See attached

9. Old Business

- a. Melissa Bonnell is our rep at Regional SAC
- b. Writers in the Schools – Mrs. Steel-Wood and Mrs. Katelyn Wade are looking into this.
- c. Peer Mentorship Program – Training of grade 11 and 12 students for peer mentoring of grade 9s, within the Healthy Living class framework
- d. Thoughtful Food Project
 - i. community meals
- e. Date for Holiday Dinner – tentatively December 18th
 - i. Reid's donating carrots and potatoes. Cafeteria staff on board
- f. Natalie, in cafeteria, is a Red Seal chef and interested in helping plan winter and spring community meals with student involvement in food prep and service.
- g. Sport related:
 - i. Alumni Tourney as a fundraiser to offset school sport fees (\$10/team – 3 point tourney, \$4 entry). Lost our leader. Who in community might be able to organize this? Mrs. Rushton will investigate possibilities.
 - ii. Banners in gym – Old banners suitable for display have been identified by a community member and are currently in safe storage.
 - iii. Spring Marathon in partnership with MMAS (Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society) – **Run with the Mustangs.**
 - 1. Atlantic Chip is on board and presenting to MMAS next week. Sharon Arsenault has potential leads with Atlantic Chip for grants to support this.

2. Aiming for a September 2025 event. Funds to benefit 2025/26 school year. Anne Warburton will present at upcoming MMAS meeting and confirm partnership for this event
- iv. Alerted HRM: Need to address drainage in the soccer field. Councillor Deagle-Gammon is on-side. Bringing to HRM Rec Meeting tonight; will confirm response and proposed action at next SAC meeting.
- v. October 19th – Ball Field was reclaimed!! It will be available for the spring '25 softball season.
- vi. Proposed outdoor bleachers – *What, if any action has been taken on this to date?*
- vii. Outdoor classroom/amphitheatre – Danielle, who is no longer on the SAC, had been planning to gather ideas and possible funding sources. Emma will now keep an eye on potential grants for this project, and could possibly be considered as an O2 project.
- viii. Student council sports rep– to communicate tryouts and practices and will provide results (scores) to the school
- ix. Practice and tryout dates will be added to the school's Google Calendar and possibly Instagram and noted on the Bulletin Board.

10. New Business

- a. NOT POSSIBLE (confirmed per Mrs. Rushton) – Reimbursement of \$30 required for vulnerable sector check / volunteerism
- b. MRHS sporting events on MVCA website: Need point person to link to Google Calendar once it is up and running.
- c. Innovation Fund 2024-2025 Idea Pool: Outdoor Learning Space (see 9g, vii); Makers Studio (continuation of idea from last year)
- d. Mock Medical Centre – Planned for March 2025, led by Wendy Robinson, Grow Within, and Denise VanWychen & Angela Mackenzie. This is an opportunity for students to have exposure to more health care professions.
- e. Mrs. Rushton will place a request for new SAC volunteers and membership in the upcoming school newsletter.
- f. Presentation by Ms. Reid for a Europe trip to be planned for March 2027.

11. Adjournment

Student Report:

Spirit Week

Last week we held our first spirit week which had good participation, there were between 80-120 participants in total for each grade. Our grade 8s are still in first place, but the numbers are pretty close for those top slots.

Soccer Game

We had a senior soccer game on Friday which was requested by our grade 12 soccer players. It was a boys vs. girls game, but throughout the match players switched sides so it was more co-ed at times. Overall everyone really enjoyed a fun scrimmage to end off the soccer season.

Sports Updates

Now that the volleyball and basketball season has started I've been talking to Brent trying to see if he can update either me or the calendar with dates for tryouts and practices.

Bulletin Board

Many students have been referencing the student council board for updates, so it has been serving its purpose well, and I will be updating it as soon as I get a chance.

Christmas Parade

The band and Student Council students will be putting a float in the Christmas parade again this year, student council members will be decorating it and the band is playing.

O2 Report:

- Tanya Reddick visited from BFY (Building Future for Youth Program) Friday, November 1. She had the students make a construction out of paper and masking tape. They were quite innovative.
- They had our "try-out-a-trade" baking session on Monday, November 4 when we made *Tarte Tatin*. It was for the most part very successful, with some groups making great creative choices.
- The class is scheduled to go to Toromont Cat (a heavy equipment company) in Burnside on Monday, November 25.
- They are going to the Army reserves in Halifax on either Thursday or Friday, November 28 or 29.
- The class is headed to Enginuity (an innovative engineering firm specialized in making tools for scallop fishing among other things) in Spryfield on Monday, December 2.
- There will be a future trip to IMP at the airport. The date is not set.
- There will be a visit to the Shaw Group, possibly together with students at Marine Drive Academy. The date is not set.
- Mr. Brodin is planning a First Aid course, which will be taught half on-line and half in person.
- Mr. Brodin is also working on possibly taking them to explore the Gold Mine site.
- There are two guest lecturers, one paramedic and one motivational "discovering skills" speaker, booked in for January.
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SAC- Principal Report

- The AARAO career fair took place in our gymnasium on Monday, October 28. This event was well attended with a variety of career opportunities presented.

- There was a successful spirit week at the end of October. This included theme days, the staff Halloween costume, and the week ended with an assembly and outdoor soccer game (senior girls vs boys).
- The MRHS soccer teams had a good season overall:
 - Jr Boys finished league play with record of 1-5, a young team this year that showed much improvement over the course of the season
 - Jr. Girls finished with a record of 3-3 in league play. Lost their semifinal game to Riverside by a score of 2-1.
 - Sr. Boys finished third in their league with a record of 2-4. Lost their Interdistrict Game to Pugwash.
 - Sr. Girls finished first in their league with a record of 6-0 and lost their Interdistrict game to River Hebert by a goal.
- We currently have active junior and senior girls volleyball teams.
- Basketball team tryouts are underway for Jr. girls and boys, and senior boys.
- Some new benches arrived last week and are spread around the building. Students are really enjoying the new seating options.
- On November 8th, there will be a Remembrance Day ceremony with school students and staff. On November 11th, MRHS band students will play at the Remembrance day service in the community. A wreath will be laid by a student and a donation will be made from MRHS to the Royal Canadian Legion, Valley Branch.
- Working on some school clothing orders (t-shirts & hoodies), hoping to have them in by Christmas.
- We are in the initial stages of fundraising for the Grad class. Looking to sell 50/50 ticket Nov/Dec., donation letters to businesses, and gift card tree ticket sales in the spring. The funds are used to cover graduation fees (gown, tassel, flowers, food, prom costs- decorations, food, DJ), graduation signs put up in the community & grad hoodies.
- Parent-teacher conferences set for Thurs. December 5, (1-3pm & 6-8 pm). Appointment times can be booked online one week ahead.

Student Success Planning (SSP): Short Cycle Planning

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

Cycle 1 Strategy/ Action:

-Implement more opportunity for students to engage in learning activities that allow students to move around the classroom. For example, Vertical Wipe Boards, stations, puzzle hunts, QR codes/Geocaches, Paper chase, Math markets, Gallery Walks, 100s Review.

-Increase use of standing desks with whiteboard tops.

-Add staff to the classroom to support targeted conferencing.

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

Cycle 1 Strategy/ Action:

Students will develop independence using a variety of comprehension strategies to identify main ideas in a variety of texts.

1. Teachers will use mentor texts to explicitly teach how to employ text features (nonfiction/fiction).
2. Teachers will provide time for students to independently demonstrate comprehension beginning with text features.
3. Teachers will model other comprehension strategies (literal and nonliteral)

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

- Increased positivity towards school and community and create a sense of belonging in the school. (color shirts for class colour war days, weekly survey to check on well being, opportunities to get involved)

J.Rushton