

School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Location: MRHS Library

Date: January 2025; Time: 3:30 pm

Attendees:

Staff—Principal Rushton, Angela Mackenzie, Emma Horne

Student representation—Megan McCurdy

Community representation—Sharon Arsenault, Pat McCurdy

Parent representation—Anne Warburton

Discussion items

1. Call to order
2. Approval of last meeting's minutes
3. Approval of meeting agenda
4. **Student Report from Student Council**
 - a. Please see attached report
5. **SAC Chair Report**-captured in notes below
6. **O2 Report**
 - a. Please see attached report
7. **Principal's Report**
 - a. See attached
8. **Old Business**
 - a. Holiday Dinner – Notes for next year have been made. Include but are not limited to: continue to invite senior community members, reinvoke bus drivers but get RSVPs, invite Family Resource Centre Staff.
 - b. Mock Medical Centre – Planned for March 2025, led by Wendy Robinson, Grow Within.
 - c. Sport related:
 - i. Alumni Tourney as a fundraiser? Looking for lead.
 - ii. Nag HRM: Need to address drainage in the soccer field.
 - iii. Student council sports rep and Teachers (e.g., Diane Clark) to add MRHS events to Valley wide [online calendar](#) by emailing dates of games/tourneys/events to musquodoboitvalley@gmail.com
9. **New Business**
 - a. September 28th, 2025 **Mustang Run** planned in partnership with MMAS (Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society). [Registrations live online.](#)

- i. Will need MRHS volunteers (some from each team?) to help guide participants at each intersection.
- ii. Additional outside funding to be pursued to help host event.
- b. Sharon A. questions availability of old SARs building and/or lot for MRHS use. Potential site for outdoor classroom? Could the pursuit of such a structure/area be in partnership with other community organizations such as MVBT?
- c. 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.
- d. Innovation Fund 2024-2025 Idea Pool: Outdoor Learning Space / Makers Studio (continuation of idea from last year)
- e. Mrs. Rushton will place an invitation for new SAC volunteers and membership in her Weekly Memos.
- f. Mrs. Rushton will invite Teachers to submit ideas/needs that can be addressed with SAC funding.

10. Adjournment

Next Meetings: [February 12](#), (no meeting in March), [April 2nd](#), [May 7](#), [June 11th](#)

Action items	Who	Timing
Pursue HRM Parks Capital Team for drainage improvements to soccer field.	Anne	On-going
Collect design ideas and grant leads for an outdoor learning space on school grounds.	Emma	On-going
Contact HRM and local SARs group to find out status of neighbouring SARs property	Sharon & Anne	Before Feb mtg
Ask teachers and staff about supplies needed that SAC funding could provide	Joanne	Before Feb mtg

Student Report from Student Council:

Proposed Winter Carnival Week

Monday 10th	Tuesday 11th	Wednesday 12th	Thursday 13th	Friday 14th
Students vs. Teachers Ball Hockey @lunch Candy Gram Sales Dance Ticket Sales	Candy Gram Sales Dance Ticket Sales	Candy Gram Sales Dance Ticket Sales	Candy Gram Sales Dance Ticket Sales Valentines Dance 6:30 (Money at the door)	Candy Gram Delivery

Overview:

As a way to cultivate our school spirit and involvement, student council is proposing a Winter Carnival throughout the week of February 10th - 14th. The events will be structured around a teachers vs. students competition, with lunch time activities taking place.

Goals:

- Strengthen the relationship between staff and students
- Cultivate school spirit
- Develop an enjoyable atmosphere within the school to encourage well-being

Ideas:

- Teachers vs Students - week long competition-
- Losing team gets a pie in the face
- Snowman competitions
- Tobogganing
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Ball hockey
- Rock paper scissors (school wide competition)
- Bring someone in (hypnotist)
- Candy grams Monday to Thursday
- Tug of War
- Potential ski trip to Wentworth (CSW to organize)

O2 Report: Jan. 8/25

Gold mine visit: We went to see the reclamation site as the students were to participate in a design competition. Their task was to create a plan for a certain area of the site. It was helpful to see the site with our own eyes. The week prior to our visit, we also had representatives of the mine coming to our school and giving us a general introduction to the mining operation.

Engenuity visit: This engineering firm started with one person. Now they have 60 employees and it is all about offering ideas to investors and others. They have designed everything from coffee dispensers at Tim Hortons to scallop fishing tools.

IMP visit: IMP, a company that serves the airplane industry, had changed their rules for visitors and we were not allowed to see as many sections of the company this time. As a compensation, they offered our students some valuable workshops. Thanks to the hands-on experience, it was almost better than last year.

First Aid Course: Wendy, a lovely volunteer from Saint John's Ambulance, gave the students their first practical First Aid training. The course also consisted of an on-line part, which the students completed on their own. We are now waiting for the certificates to arrive, which will be great for the students' resumes.

Interior Decoration: Joanne Linzel, a designer from B.C., taught us the basics of interior decoration. We had a workshop in our classroom. She brought so-called mood plans and different materials for the students to work with. It was delightful to see how many students really sparked when they created rooms for the designing of a house located in N.B. The idea is that we will make use of this experience when we create a "cozy nook" for our classroom and it will also match well with the financial literacy unit of the Career Development Course.

SAC- Principal Report

What's been happening at MRHS:

- On Nov. 27, we received notification that our school has been selected to receive funding from the Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund for 2024: \$3500. Thank you to Emma Horne, our Community Outreach Worker for submitting the grant proposal.
- December 5- Parent/Teacher Conferences that were well attended (1-3pm & 6-8 pm).
- We had a very successful school-wide holiday turkey dinner for all students and staff on December 18th. Everyone very much enjoyed the meal and was very grateful for the food donations and for the volunteers who gave up their time to support this event. A special thank you to: our SAC co-chair Anne Warburton for the organization of the event, the Musquodoboit Valley Family Resource Centre and Reid's Restaurant & Bakery for their donations. In addition, thank you to the many hands that helped with the prep, peeling, cooking, carving and serving: Melissa Bonnell, Pat McCurdy, Wendy Robinson, Sharon Arsenault, Julie Ruggles, Georgia Barg and Jenna Iaboni. Also, a big thank you to MRHS staff, in particular Vania and Natalie, and the students who helped out with the preparations, set up, and serving our special guests. The meal was delicious and greatly appreciated!!
- Band Concert & Coffee house-December 17 - an amazing event that was well attended and enjoyed by all!
- P.A.U.S.E for Lunch continues every two weeks at lunchtime, next one up is Jan. 9 (Chocolate pudding!)
- Basketball season is currently in session. We have a Sr. Girls Basketball tournament happening this weekend (4 teams included). Parent volunteers are helping out to make and sell food in the cafeteria. Proceeds go to the team! The team is also fundraising with a bottle drive as well. Bottles can be dropped off at the school on Sat. Jan. 11 or at TNT recycling in Shubie under the name "Musquodoboit Sr. Girls Basketball"
- We are currently fundraising for the Grad class of 2025. Sold 50/50 ticket Nov/Dec.; raised \$1625. Donation letters have started to be distributed to businesses, and looking for gift card donations for 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.

- St. Barbara's Land Competition grant application- MRHS students visited the Gold mine on Dec. 3rd for a tour of the land. There were 9 grant proposals submitted on Dec. 20. The school will receive \$1000 for submitting a proposal and a chance to win \$25000.

Upcoming important dates:

- Thurs. January 16 - Grade 6 Parent/Guardian Information Night (6:30-7:30pm)- What to expect in JH!
- Thurs. January 23 - Grade 9 Parent Information night (6:30-7:30) - Thinking about High school and course selection
- January 27-30th It's final assessment/ exam week! Some students are finishing up and graduating early and some are moving into their last semester of high school.
- Semester 2 starts on February 3rd!
- Report cards will be sent home on February 6th for Senior High students.
- Course selection process will begin in February, updates and any important information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

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 2 Strategy/ Action:

Student Intervention Plans - completed by Grade level math teacher in grade 8 and 10 and Math Resource teacher and/or DH

Pre-Read - students will have the opportunity to view assessments prior to writing, perhaps a day in advance. Students will have an opportunity to share their thinking and learn from one another in a low risk environment. Gives students a chance to do some pre-thinking and develop a strategy for mastering the content. This should help reduce anxiety amongst students when they are completing tests.

Annotating Word Problems - as a problem solving strategy students will annotate problems they are trying to solve.

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 2 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.

Cycle 2 Strategy/ Action:

To foster a stronger sense of belonging as a school community by creating safe spaces, showing student appreciation, and recognizing who they are as individuals.

J.Rushton