

# School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Location: MRHS Library

Date: Feb. 2025; Time: 3:30 pm

Attendees:

Staff—Principal Rushton, Angela Mackenzie, Emma Horne, Micke Brodin

Student representation—Megan McCurdy, Lauren Smith

Community representation—Pat McCurdy

Parent representation—Percilla Keizer, Erin Smith, Peter Kozier, 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. SARS property curiosity: Confirmed that it is designated HRM Surplus.
  - b. Community Connections: MRHS sent the link to the Musq Valley website's [online calendar](#).
  - c. Sport related:
    - i. Mustang Run Sept. 28 - [registrations are live](#). MRHS athletes will be needed to direct traffic flow on the day of. SAC approved a discounted rate for MVEC and MRHS students to encourage participation.
    - ii. Soccer field drainage - letters to Jeff Spares of HRM Capital and Parks have been written, and the Councillor Deagle-Gammon is being cc'd in all correspondence about the field's lack of drainage. We requested a copy of the dates and records from previous inspections, and there's been 'radio silence' from HRM since that request.
  - d. **Outdoor classroom / amphitheatre**: SAC will reach out to WestFor Mgt Inc. for guidance on evaluating the MRHS site for a potential outdoor classroom and to get high-level cost estimates. A Canada Post Grant is available for \$5k which would apply.

- e. **Innovation Fund:** SAC is considering reviving the 'Maker's Studio' component of last year's Innovation Fund application.

#### 9. **New Business**

- a. **Congratulations to Meg** McCurdy for her successful proposal to the St. Barbara's Gold Mine, worth \$25K to the school's instructional funds. \$1k will be allocated to graduate fees.
- b. A Request for Quotation has been issued for the development of a conceptual plan for an **Active Transportation path** connecting the schools to the village of Middle Musquodoboit. The process will include MRHS during the public engagement component of the study and provide opportunities for the O2 class.
- c. Spring Awards Ceremony: SAC decided to forgo any changes to the Ceremony this year but are optimistic that there will be Hospitality Course in 2026 that can see to refreshments for the 2026 ceremony.
- d. Solicited requests for **SAC funding** (\$5k) from teachers included: learning-outcome associated 'break out' boxes, support for the school's food pantry, new & replacement sporting equipment, resource books for staff, Picasso tablets and screen-printing kits, film cameras for the film and video tech course, and a new router for the shop course. Students also expressed interest in support for: rounding out our jerseys (not enough were ordered last year), men's basketballs, a PA system for the use of Student Council during events and assemblies, and bleachers in the gym and out by the soccer field.
- e. A need has been identified for a **School Improvement Committee** to plan and project manage infrastructure improvements.

#### 10. **Adjournment**

Next Meetings: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 7, June 11<sup>th</sup>

## Action items

## Who Timing

SARS -HRM Surplus Property: stir up HRM to find out the plans for this property

Anne

Before next mtg

Confirm the renewal of the SAC Innovation Fund

Anne

Before next mtg

Catalyze HRM action to rectify soccer field drainage issues

Anne

On-going

Investigate if the \$24k can be moved from the instructional account into another, more flexible account.

Joanne

Before next mtg

Principal Rushton will create a detailed list of the costs of the requested SAC funds for formal approval at the April meeting.

Joanne

Before next mtg

Work with Atlantic Chip to discount student participation by \$10 in the Mustang Run.

Anne

Before next mtg

Reach out to WestFor for initial guidance about outdoor learning spaces.

Anne

Before next mtg

## SAC Student Report February

### Winter Carnival Week

This week the school has been participating in a students vs. staff competition. Each day there are different themes and lunchtime activities. Points are awarded based on the percentage of total people participating, and the winner of the lunchtime activity receives points. The losing team will receive a pie to the face.

Monday 10th	Tuesday 11th	Wednesday 12th	Thursday 13th	Friday 14th
Ball Hockey	Rock, Paper, Scissors war	Tug of War	Bench Ball	SKI TRIP
Candy Gram Sales Dance Ticket Sales	Candy Gram Sales Dance Ticket Sales	Candy Gram Sales Dance Ticket Sales	Candy Gram Delivery Pie in the Face Valentines Dance 6:30	Pink, Red or Hearts
Anything but a water bottle	Tourist Day	Jersey Day	Cozy Day	

### Candy Grams

Student Council is selling Candy Grams this week which is a way to send chocolates and notes to friends.

### Gold Mine Award

Some student input about what to do with the funds include;

- Bleachers in the gym so that 200 chairs don't have to be pulled from under the stage for events
- Permanent benches along the edge of the field for teams so that they don't have to carry them up from the gym every game
- A new speaker for assemblies in the gym along with class
- Gym equipment specifically mens indoor basketballs
- Jerseys for the teams that did not receive them last year

In addition to student input I think that the teachers should be asked, especially Mr.Perrin who talks about things he used to have but no longer does, or could be replaced for various Chemistry Labs.

## **O2 Report:**

- There has been a grant application submitted for 15 Robot kits for the o2 class.
- There is an upcoming trip to the Trades Hall to explore various skill trades.
- O2 placements have been going well however some challenges finding placements in HeavyDuty mechanics.
- O2 Applications will be distributed towards the end of March with decisions for the next cohort made by mid-April.

## **SAC- Principal Report**

What's been happening at MRHS:

- 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. Grads are participating in a Bake Sale on Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Elderbank Winter Carnival.
- 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. They received 17 proposals in total from three different schools and had a committee of five Atlantic Operation team members review them all. There were many amazing entries, but after careful deliberation they decided on a winner – Megan McCurdy's proposal combines aspects of environment, community, safety, history, and modern mining while being feasible and generic enough to accomplish. MRHS was presented with a \$25,000 cheque on Monday, Feb. 10 (we got a big novelty cheque with the CEO flying in from Australia to present it to the school). The SAC will decide how these funds will be spent to support the students at MRHS.
- 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
- Thurs. January 30- Italy/Greece trip 2027- parent meeting
- It's Winter Carnival week Feb. 10-14- lots of fun activities between students and staff.
- Winter Ball Dance Feb. 13- snow date March 6
- Course selection process will begin in March using myBlueprint; updates and any important information will be sent home in the coming weeks.
- Literacy consultant and math consultant have been part of our planning with our Literacy & Math departments. Rachel Ross, the Facilitator of African Canadian Education Services will be visiting the school a couple of times in February to work with staff regarding Culturally relevant teaching

practices in collaboration with the literacy and math consultants. She is also hoping to set up focus groups with our students of African ancestry.

### **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 3 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 3 Strategy/ Action:**

**Students will develop greater independence in inferring deeper meaning from a variety of figurative language in multiple text genres.**

- Use of mentor texts to model skills as part of explicit instruction
- Use of inquiry and questioning to develop critical thinking

**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 3 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

MRHS Principal