

## School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Location: MRHS Library

Date: 2 April 2025; Time: 3:30 pm

Attendees:

Staff—Principal Rushton, Angela Mackenzie, Emma Horne,

Student representation—Megan McCurdy

Community representation—Pat McCurdy, Sharon Arsenault

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. Please see attached
8. **Old Business**
  - a. Multi-use active transportation trail project has started. Upland Planning and Design Studio in partnership with Englobe Engineering awarded the contract. Will work with Principal Rushton to coordinate an engagement session (trail design charette) in May with MRHS students.
  - b. SAC funding
    - i. Principal Rushton working with teachers to identify equipment and material needs for their classrooms for the \$5K SAC budget.
      1. Solicited requests for SAC funding (or other funding) from teachers include:  
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. Also being considered for this year or next, a sound studio in partnership with the MV Bicentennial Theatre

- ii. No announcement about the Dept. of Education Innovation Fund yet.
  - c. Sport related:
    - i. Mustang Run Sept. 28 – [registrations are live](#) and \$10 discount promo code established.
    - ii. Soccer field drainage – MRHS (Mr. Perrin) needs to book the field in order to be recognized in the HRM system as an active field, and MRHS needs to ‘go up’ the HRCE chain to request field improvements as per an existing service agreement.
  - d. Outdoor classroom / amphitheatre: Idea on hold.
  - e. 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.
9. A need has been identified for a **School Improvement Committee** to plan and project manage infrastructure improvements.
10. **New Business**
- a. Mobile food market project starting up. Volunteer opportunities for students.

#### 11. Adjournment

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

Action items	Who	Timing
Contact Alison King about SAC Innovation Fund; will or won't it happen?	Anne	Before next mtg
Principal Rushton will reach out to teachers again to confirm needed/desired classroom resources/supplies (especially Mr. Perrin).	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
Liaise with Principal Rushton to coordinate a Design Charette with MRSH Students for the Active Transportation project now underway.	Anne	Before next mtg
Provide MRHS with info about Mobile Market volunteer opportunities.	Emma and Sharon	Before end of May

## **SAC Student Report April**

### **Old Business**

Winter Carnival Week was successful despite the several snow days throughout the week. Students enjoyed lunchtime activities, especially the hockey game that took place on Monday. Due to the snow the Pie in the Face was held the week after in addition to Candy Gram Delivery and the dance was moved to Mar 6th.

The Staff team won so one student from each grade received a pie from a teacher, including my co-president Johnny who was pied by Mr. Perrin.

### **March Updates**

Student Activity - We held a Senior Boys vs. Girls basketball game on March 6th as a way to end the season, which was very entertaining. For the last period the court was made up of the graduating members of each team which was a bittersweet end.

On St. Patrick's Day students wore green and their participation was counted towards class competition totals.

Health Clinic - March 27th a mock health clinic event took place that essentially gave our grade 9 students the opportunity to experience health care. Senior students that intend on entering healthcare fields were invited to help facilitate the event.

Band Activities - On Tuesday band students had their spring concert & coffee house to fundraise for New York. It was Celtic themed and we played lots of great tunes. Fundraising for our trip is not quite where we would like it to be, many of us are paying out of pocket the last few hundreds we need to get there, but everything is on schedule for us to be away from the 16th to the 20th.

The drama class in addition to the band students went on a trip to Neptune Theatres Thursday the 27th to see Little Shop of Horrors. It was an incredible show, and a great way to destress after the concert.

### **April Updates**

Mock Election - At our last meeting we discussed a possible date for a school wide mock election to take place mirroring the actual election, and we decided that either the 7th or 14th could be a good day for voting to take place, however, the final details are up to Ms. Rushton.

Student Council Elections - We have decided that elections will take place in May, so that positions are secured in the Fall. Additionally, our next meeting is on the 9th where we are going to refine the positions available on the council and specific tasks each person is responsible for.

### **HRCE Council**

Monday March 3rd the Student Advisory Council met with the Regional Executive Director. We discussed the topic of attendance within schools and expressed our personal opinions and reasons why students haven't been attending school. We spent the entire 1h 30m speaking about this topic and many different ideas were brought forward. Our next meeting is May 5th and I think it will be a longer meeting as we are very passionate speakers.

**O2 Report:**

- The O2 class went on a trip to the Discovery Center on March 19 and it was quite successful.
- They participated in a workshop in which the students learned about acidification in the oceans. It was quite disturbing, but a useful realization.
- O2 applications have been distributed to interested grade 9 students. O2 applications are due on Friday, April 11. The O2 applications will be reviewed the week of April 14-18 and O2 interviews will take place during the week of April 22-25.

**SAC- Principal Report**

What's happening at MRHS:

- The rescheduled Winter Ball happened on the Thursday before March break, it was pretty well attended.
- We had a band concert & silent auction on March 25. The students did a great job and the event was well attended. There is one more band concert scheduled for June. Ms. Clarke's last concert:( We are making efforts to have the music/band program continue at MRHS with active recruitment of a teacher for the program.
- We are currently fundraising for the Grad class of 2025 with an upcoming Merchandise Bingo on April 25 at the Upper Musq Community centre. Still accepting donations of merchandise for prizes.
- A Mock Health Care centre was set up in the cafeteria last Thursday, March 27 for the whole morning. This was organized by Wendy Robinson and was funded by the Grow Within project. Grade 9 students had an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities and simulations and learn about health care professions. The students were very engaged in the sessions and the event was a success! We are hoping to make this an annual event. There were about 10 stations in total.
- The course selection process has begun with Grade 11s & 10s...moving on to Grade 9s next week.
- JH report cards were sent home last week. SH reports cards to be sent home after Easter with Parent-Teacher conferences set for April 30.
- Grade 7 immunization clinic to take place on April 22 & a pick-up clinic on April 24.
- Professional learning day on Thurs. April 3- This day is focused on our Safe Schools Strategy with the upcoming release of the updated Provincial Code of Conduct. The learning outcomes for the morning consist of:
  - Overview of the Provincial Safe Schools Strategy
  - Appreciation for where the new Provincial School Code of Conduct is positioned within the Safe Schools Strategy
  - Understand important, foundational, school-wide strategies that will support successful launch of the School Code of Conduct

- Begin development of School-Wide Value Statement & Expectations Matrix and related routines
- The afternoon session will include a focus on Literacy across Content areas as well as some time with SSP planning.
- We currently have a Literacy Coach working with teachers for the next 5-6 weeks to bring some professional learning opportunities to the school.
- Rachel Ross, the Facilitator of African Canadian Education Services and our Math consultant are returning to the school on April 15 to visit and work with some of our Math 10 students.
- A new Youth Health Centre Coordinator has been hired and will be starting in September 2026. Her name is Megan Butler.

### **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:**

We would like to continue to work on the strategies that we began during our last short-cycle and also expand on that work. We feel that we haven't completed all that there is to do with those strategies.

**Student Intervention Plans** - we are continuing to gather information in consultation with Rachel Ross and Patricia Irving to develop student agency and initiative in completing work and developing strategies for them to self-advocate at the point of interruption/discontinuity. We feel that we need to gather more information to support our students on an individual basis. This would probably occur in the form of interviews with students and finding out more about their needs and what keeps them from doing what they should to be successful.

**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.

- Student-led equity team will create a “for students by students” survey to gauge interest in activities that celebrate/explore ideas that the students value
- Monthly spirit assemblies that share well-being data and strategies with the entire school community
- Staff equity team proactively engages with students to promote how we respond to incidents of discrimination and attacks on identity.
- Met with Rachel Ross and Patricia Irving to discuss our SSP goals/actions

J.Rushton