

# School Advisory Council

Location: MRHS Library

Date: 11 Oct 2023

Time: 3:30 pm

Attendees: Staff—Principal Rushton, Mrs. Steel-Wood  
Student representation—Megan McCurdy, Tia Abdel Massih  
Community representation—Sharon Arsenault  
Parent representation—Anne Warburton

Regrets: Staff-Vice Principal Paddock, Angela MacKenzie, Robert Smith, Deborah MacDonald  
Community representation— Sharon McLeod, Jason Pyett, Juli Ruggles  
Parent representation— Heidi Higgins, Andrea Payne, Melissa Bonnell

## Agenda items

1. Call to order
2. Approval of meeting agenda
3. Selection of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary-Deferred to November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting due to lack of quorum.
4. Student Report from Student Council Co-Presidents
  - 1) The MRHS Student Council has been renewed. There are five Student Council Committees: Events, Arts, Communications, Sports, and Technology. Each committee is led by a Student Council representative but welcomes the participation of any student.
  - 2) Upcoming initiatives: Spirit week in end of October, an MRHS float in the Christmas parade, Christmas Caroling at the Villa and Braeside, monthly assemblies.
  - 3) Initiatives being considered: Relay for Life (June).
  - 4) Fundraising ideas being considered, including but not limited to: Bingo at Community Hall in Upper Musquodoboit, 50/50 draws, Little Luxuries
  - 5) Wishes expressed for consideration:
    - a. a Senior Girls Volleyball Coach
    - b. benches in the main foyer
  - 6) Concerns expressed: efficiency of the cafeteria line given the time constraints. Ideas to mitigate the issue of a long line-up included:
    - a. Identifying additional help to manage sales
    - b. Using two serving windows, one of which may be for just snacks/drinks

- c. Pre-ordering hot lunches
- d. Installing debit card machine—Principal Rushton is seeking approval from HRCE.

5. SAC Report

- 1) SAC email link to HRCE no longer working.

6. O2 Report

- 1) Program active, though not fully subscribed. Two field trips have been taken and the Canadian Forces visited.
- 2) A new staff member will begin leading the Program on October 13th.

7. Principal’s Report

- 1) Please see attached.

8. Unfinished Business: The position of Student Lunch Monitor needs to be filled.

9. New Business: Three themes have been identified that will flavour community/parent involvement with the SAC, in addition to monitoring the Student Success Plan:

- 1) cultivating school **spirit** (in collaboration with the Student Council),
- 2) supporting/creating opportunities for the emergence of an individual’s **leadership** tendencies, and
- 3) fostering **community connectedness** to improve upon a sense of belonging, broaden access to resources and support (of every kind), and to catalyze personal growth through community service—both offering it and receiving it.

- a. Idea: ILT (Grades 7 and 8) could undertake a community cleanup this Autumn

10. Adjournment (4:45)

Action items	Owner(s)	Deadline	Status
Get details about Christmas parade	Tia and Meg	November 15th	
Investigate options to alleviate cafeteria line-ups	Principal Rushton	November 15th	
Contact HRCE tech help to repair SAC email link	Principal Rushton	November 15th	
Coordinate a community clean up with ILT students	Mrs. Steel-Wood	TBD	

October 11, 2023

## SAC- Principal Report

It's been a great start to the year! I'm enjoying the new school staff, students and community. Some important events that have happened so far this year include:

Professional Learning for teachers on September 5th & 6th which focused on reviewing our Student Success Survey data from the survey in the spring and working on our school Well-Being goal. The teachers also had an opportunity to review each student's file to get to know them better and ensure the appropriate programming is in place to support all of our students in the classroom. Additionally, teachers had an opportunity for self-reflection of their teaching and assessment practices using The Grading Principles Progression Chart.

Pink day, Stand up Against Bullying Day, happened on September 14th and we had a great participation.

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.

The Canadian Armed forces visited the school for the O2 class, on Monday Sept. 18th, however also set up in the foyer at lunchtime for any questions any student may have. They also allowed students to view their vehicle in the parking lot.

The AARAO career fair took place in our gymnasium on Monday, September 25th. This event was well attended with a variety of career opportunities presented.

Orange shirt day took place on Friday September 29th in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Classrooms within the school also participated in activities to reflect upon the significance of this day and made a display in the main foyer. Tia said a few words on the PA and the school had a moment of silence to reflect upon the trauma endured by the children of residential schools and also the families when their children never returned home.

Ms. MacKenzie held a Gr. 12 Parent information session on Thursday, October 5th 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.

Bus evacuation training happened this morning, to ensure students understand what happens on the bus in the event of an emergency.

Grade 7 immunizations are happening next week on Tuesday, October 17th in the cafeteria. There is a Coffeehouse on Thursday October 19th from 6:30-8:00pm and they are looking for students to sign up to perform.

### **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.

Our first strategy/action will incorporate conferencing with students to get to know them (build relationships) and determine areas of strengths and challenges.

Math 8 & Math 10:

Additionally, there will be another teacher in the classroom 3x/week to provide co-teaching opportunities to support high leverage Tier 1 strategies and targeted support for areas of challenges.

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

The student success survey from the spring of 2023 identified that students feel like the school is doing a poor job when responding to racism, discrimination, homophobia and transphobia.

**Strategy:** Teachers will interrupt discrimination/ racism/ homophobia/ transphobia immediately when they witness it.

**Actions:**

1. Identify it/ Name it
2. Talk about how it's affecting the student
3. Ask for it to stop

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

**TBD- Literacy data to be reviewed in October; an update will be reported at the November meeting.**

*J. Rushton*