

**January 24, 2024**  
**Musquodoboit Rural High School**  
**SAC Meeting Minutes –**

**Attendance:** J. Rushton, C. Steele Wood, A. MacKenzie, D. MacDonald, A. Warburton, R. Smith, A. Payne, S. Arsenault, E. Redden, E. Paddock

**Regrets:** T. Abdel Massih, S. McLeod

**Call to Order: 3:31 pm** AW

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

Meeting minutes approved by CSW and seconded by RS

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Meeting Agenda approved AM and EP

**3. Student's Report** - CSW read the information provided by Tia for the Student Council February Assembly

Our next assembly is going to be on February 2nd to kick off the new semester! Some things we want to do at this assembly are Musical chairs, there will be a couple participants from each grade, Minute to win it challenges, And relay races. These activities are a part of something new we want to try called class comp.

Class comp is when every grade wears a different colour and participants compete in various activities.

- Candy Grams

We will be selling candy grams from February 12-13th. They will be delivered on the 14th.

- March Theme Week

Our next theme week is going to be March 8-12. We have yet to decide on the theme days but some ideas we have are: Anything but a backpack day, comfy day, twin day, different decades, character day, and celebrity day.

- School Dance

We are planning to have a school dance on March 11th (Thursday before March break) . We have yet to finalise the details. Eventually they want us to take over planning and running the school dances.

- Relay For Life

Sometime this year we want to do a relay for life. It is going to be during the school day and it most likely will be volunteer participants (Similar to the Terry Fox run)

- Carnival

This year the student council is going to throw a carnival instead of the grade 9 citizenship class. Our current planned date is April 18th. We have yet to fully go over all the details, this is still a work in progress.

- Field Day

During June theme week we are planning to have a field day. It will be run by the student council. We have yet to determine what day it will be or if it will be all day or just the afternoon. We will discuss this more closer to June theme week.

- Class Comp Colours

As introduced in the first bullet point, we will encourage each class to wear their class comp colours every first friday of the month

#### **4. Chair's Report** AW Reported:

AW reports no new news with the exception of a new Health and Food Policy to be introduced in 2024.

The Streetlight out front has been fixed.

There will no longer be an HRM Hazardous Waste pick up in the school parking lot.

#### **5. O2 Report** - JR reported for M.Brodin

All trips and speakers have been well received.

There has been some concern regarding limited choices for classes and inquiries about the food industry were voiced.

All CO-OP positions should be listed for everyone to see.

Question from AW - How are the areas of interest decided?

**See attached O2 Report**

#### **6. Principal's Report** –See attached report

#### **7. Unfinished business** -

JR reports the information for the planer in the wood shop is forthcoming from building manager Paul.

SA brought forth information for JR to read regarding Peer Mentorship

Mental Health and addictions, connection to YHC and SA when new YHC contact arrives in May. SAC was unaware that bookings for the gym at MRHS were done through facility rentals and HRM - and that we must pay a janitor for weekend events.

AP asked for the overall budget for sports at MRHS - including paint, fees, refs - it was reported from Athletic Department fees are approximately \$3000.00.

AP has asked for information on prices for uniforms. She has received quotes for replacing junior girls uniforms, but wondered about the entire uniform cost for every sport. She is looking for sponsors and will take donations for the athletic department.

Suggestions were brought forward for other fundraising ideas including Alumni Sports games and Alumni donations.

**8. New Business** ER reported

The cafeteria is in need of a few supplies for small items. Cheese grater, food processor, no slip mats for floor chafing dishes, food storage, salad spinner.

Questions asked around the use of our salad cart - a plan is required for salads and how they can be served.

Dishes and cutlery are gone, requesting a biodegradable solution for serving food.

Bathrooms are still an issue.

Boys change room needs water, shelving and bench repaired.

AW is bringing Debate to MRHS - students will be invited to the club, more details to follow. DMD reported the fridge in the learning center is really noisy - worried a new one may be required. JR to look into a service call.

\*\*\*The meeting was adjourned by AW at 4:47pm seconded by JR.

Submitted by,

C. Steele Wood

## **Report on the O2 program**

### Guest lecturers:

Ms. Gardiner has been a guest lecturer with us on four different occasions. She has, among other things, given the students new perspectives on resume and cover letter writing. She has also guided the students through their Blueprint research.

In December we had a presentation from Leanne Hines from the Automotive Sector Council. This was great because it gave the students not only information about the opportunities to do paid summer work practicums around automobiles, but also to do similar work in the culinary industry.

In January we had presentations from Emma Hines on green industry opportunities and from Doug Allen about jobs in the health sector, with particular attention to paramedic training and work life.

### Field trips:

We started with a trip to Toromont Cat in mid November. Quite a few students, who are aspiring to become mechanics, loved this trip. We learned a lot about how to repair heavy machinery and what is required to work in this industry.

A week later we visited Irving Shipyard. It felt exclusive to see what was happening inside of that box-like building as their security arrangements are thorough. We saw some of the new naval ships that were being built and were introduced to at least a dozen different types of jobs connected to this project, among them welders and pipefitters.

Late in November we went to the Army Reserves. That was hopefully another eye opener for our students. The Army reserves offer generous contracts, where they partly sponsor university studies and recruit young people for much needed tasks

At the beginning of December, we went to Shaw Resources. It was quite a positive sign to have such a big employer close to us, Shaw Resources are involved in many different areas and we learned everything from the art of concrete to pellet making. They even displayed a sophisticated robot for producing sandbags.

Finally, we went to the IMP company, which repairs helicopters and aircrafts primarily for military use. Many students seemed to think that this visit was the crown of the jewel as they hope to work in the aero industry after high school.

### Concluding remarks:

Almost everything we have seen suggests that there are many opportunities for students in the trades. In some cases, there is almost a sense of desperation around filling these positions.

My one concern is that I have exposed them to a lot of work with engines and other types of heavy industry. I wish we could have gone to see companies specializing in other areas, particularly the food industry. However, it is not from lack of trying that we never saw them.

Here is a list of Co-op work placements:

Giant Robot Comics
Sheers Salon
Fundy Vets
Sheers Salon
Hollis Ford
Designpoint Engineering
Molnar Welding
Dalhousie Archives
Ella's Greek Restaurant (Dartmouth)
Giles Autoworld
Guardian Pharmacy (Stewiacke)
Molnar Welding
Musquodoboit Hospital
Carmie's Daycare
Bergman Electric
Carmie's Daycare
Dutch Settlement School
Marigold Theatre

January 24, 2024

SAC- Principal Report

What's been happening at MRHS:

- We had a very successful Christmas dinner for all students and staff on January 13th. 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.
- Coffee house-December 18th - an amazing event despite the stormy weather! Such amazing talent and Buddy the Elf stole the show!
- Thurs. January 4th - Grade 6 Parent/Guardian Information Night (6:30-7:30pm)- What to expect in JH!
- Thurs. January 18th - Grade 9 Parent Information night (6:30-7:30) - Thinking about High school and course selection
- Pause for Lunch started today! Chili at lunchtime in the SchoolsPlus room! Thank you Sharon!
- Thurs. January 25-30th It's 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 1st!
- 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.

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.

Next strategy: To implement more balanced assessment practices by incorporating observations and conversations in regular practice. **This has been happening regularly in the classroom and allows the teachers to identify areas where students may require additional support. After the exam period next week, we are looking to implement some lunch time math support for JH students a couple of times a week.**

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

**Students will develop main ideas by selecting appropriate engaging details from a variety of sources.**

1. Teachers will use *mentor texts* to explicitly teach how writers generate ideas.
  2. Teachers will use various graphic organizers so students can co-create and organize ideas.
  3. Teachers will provide time for independent practice for generating and organizing ideas.
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- Students will identify and support main ideas with detail.
  - Students will use organizational charts more frequently to develop writing
  - Students will use charts to increase sentence and paragraph construction
  - Students will use strategies to fix up ideas and editing

Next steps: **Students will build vocabulary and sentence structure while implementing transitions.**

**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 1:** 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

**Strategy 2:** Increase opportunities for physical fitness and movement throughout the school day.

Ideas for Action:

1. Adapt the Fitness centre to be more welcoming, accessible, and inviting for all students
2. Increasing physical activity or body breaks in all classes (i.e whiteboard activities, moving group work, learning centres, etc.)
3. Gaga Ball Pit outdoors
4. 4- square in the bus loop and basketball court maintenance
5. Long-term: acquiring athletic wear for students that don't have access to it (borrow bin)
6. Trail making equipment
7. Outdoor Fitness gym

Strategy 3: Create a welcoming environment:

**In addition to the above goals we are looking to make the school feel a little more welcoming. We are in the process of looking into adding some murals in the building, like the main entrance and also in the gym. As well looking to add some more furniture such as benches, couches and plants & trees.**

J.Rushton