

BIRCHMOUNT PSSC MEETING MINUTES

Monday November 18, 2024

Attendees:

Sandra Savard

Owen Brinson

Tim Carson

Vivian Archibong

Lara Falana

Vivian Lam

Kelly Olaveson

Agbolade Dokunmu

Grant Bourque

Craig Murphy

Jean Esdras Louis

Meeting started at 6:34 pm by Grant Bourque

1. Opening

- Introduction of Members - all attendees introduced by name.

2. School - Principal's Report from Sandra Savard (Principal)

- Update on school enrollment, classes, staffing: 586 students (lower than last year), 29 Homerooms.
- Update on school facilities:
 - Portables supposed to be finished, likely next couple days. Fire and Safety Inspection to happen; a person in Fredericton to sign off when complete. Air systems to be finished Friday.
 - Tiles to be changed tile by tile, as needed.
 - Gym – new lines still need to be painted on gym floor, basketball nets to be repaired; work likely to happen over Winter Break because paint has pungent odour.
 - Drop off area no longer requires volunteers. No complaints. Wait to see how drop off works in colder weather with more traffic.
 - Advise on School Community Plan – long road ahead; growth/improvements all around.
 - 4 Goals – reading, numeracy, safety/engagement, graduation rates. Number of behavioural incidences decreased during study period. Both students and staff report higher student expectations and improved safety and positivity at school. Want to increase graduation rates (on time) out of high school.
 - Attendance identified as a very good indicator of success at school. 43% chronic absenteeism last year. Absence = absence, reason does not matter, average 3 or more days/month a problem. Have to figure out why students missing school (esp. Gr 4-8). Some students already missed 30 days of school this school year. Correlate absence vs grades and literacy; use Data Team to analyze? Sandra to identify goals.
 - Use Perception Surveys.
 - Grant highlighted disconnect between Elementary/Middle School (Gr K-8) and High School (Gr 9-12) Report Cards – 4 point rating

scales are not the same (HTHS uses 4 point rating scale with different descriptions). Parents want smoother transition. Other high schools use % grades; problematic because does 100% grade mean student knows everything for that grade level and subject? Follow up with HTHS PSSC?

- Literacy – Early Grade Literacy – fluency, phonics; 5 Pillars. EGLA, UFLY. Teachers have to have time to work on this, reduce barriers. Look at data from Gr 6 and adapt for Gr 6-8. Need to increase reading comprehension – students need to be able to ask and answer questions about what they read. Improve French Oral Communication – consistent use of French in French courses/programs. 37% of Gr 6 students meet the French Oral Communication goals. Need improvement, measurement and action.
 - Numeracy – made gains in numeracy; worse in math than reading across province. Math curriculum builds on itself so missing early skills lower grades later. Use Best Practices, Evidence based instructional form. Align the curriculum among teachers. Use Math Centres, flex groups in class; individual and collaborative learning (e.g., Teacher can work with smaller student groups at 1 centre). Math Manipulations (e.g., counts) – Tim suggested identifying what school has and what school needs. Interventions Gr 3-5 (Ms. Sears).
 - Safety/Engagement – Year 3 of project, on last year. How to move to be more operational – more effort this year.
 - Graduation – introduce new attendance protocol, more awareness and support. Teachers to follow up with students/families at 5 days missed school. Letter sent home to parent(s)/guardian(s) after 10 school days missed.
 - Youth Check In Survey – 3 times/yr. Look at representation, graphics. Student created Culture Club, Dance. Indigenous support. Collect racial data. Hard to ID systemic problems. Student form to help make decisions. School population is diverse. Include a Cultural Day? Sandra thought things going better, more inclusive. Review current situation at future meeting. Update more than once/yr. to continue moving Birchmount forward.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Continue with school safety/improvement items. Assess Kiss and Drop/Bus Zone procedures in cold weather (e.g., more traffic?). Continue floor tile repairs as needed, paint lines gym floors and fix basketball nets.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Implement surveys to assess current school status.
- 3. Birchmount School Update**
- Student Life:

- Cross Country and Soccer finished. Boys/Girls Volleyball started.
- Clubs: Glee Club, Rock Band (music video competition), TLC, Lunch Monitoring, Playground Pals, Environmental Club, D&D Club, Animation Club, Culture Club currently running.
- ELA Tutors – absorbed by CUPE. 1 x ELA Tutor with Ms. McGinn (ELA Tutor).
- Teachers – work as teams, common planning times.
- Volunteers – follow up with District about what needed for volunteers to help in school, e.g., Permanent Resident but no VISA; Canadians back from abroad. If volunteer not working directly with students, do not need Police Check or training from District. If volunteer is interacting with students and/or chaperoning trips/school events, they must complete Police Check and training from District.

ACTION ITEM: Follow up with AESD about volunteer requirements.

4. Outstanding Items

- Discuss how to deal with Composite Graduation Photos – no decision made yet (Sandra)
- Lisa and Christa to follow up and coordinate information sessions; schedule with Sandra. Limited time due to Parent Teacher Interviews, PL Days, etc. (Sandra, Lisa, Christa).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: January 20, 2025 at 6:30pm

Meeting ended at 7:26 pm by Grant Bourque

I trust that the above reflects an accurate account of our meeting. In the event that further clarifications are required or that any items are missing, please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Olaveson