

BIRCHMOUNT PSSC MEETING MINUTES

Monday November 24, 2025

Attendees:

Sandra Savard
Vivian Archibong
Grant Bourque
Dominic Vautour
Agbolade Dokunmu

Tim Carson
Lisa Bourgeois
Kelly Olaveson
Daphne Hachey

Owen Brinson
Vivian Lam
Melanie Doucet
Christa Kirk

Invited Guest: Jason Reath

Meeting started at 6:30 pm by Grant Bourque

1. Opening

- Introduction of Members - all attendees introduced by name.
- Meeting Minutes from September 22, 2025 - PSSC Meeting reviewed. Sandra S. requested change to be made to an ACTION ITEM: remove Sandra S. to follow up with NBCC and Harrison Trimble High School. Correction to read as:
ACTION ITEM: Sandra to prepare PL Day Learning Plans and provide information to parents/guardians/families (e.g., by email and posting to the Birchmount School website).
With change made, Meeting Minutes are Approved by Sandra S.

2. School Update: PILOT PROJECT - Jason Reath

- Jason is involved with monitoring/assessing success of Pilot Project – PL Days.
- Involves NB Teachers Federation (NBTF), Department of Education, 4 School Districts. UNB – DataNB – Access to Health Records.
- 3 Goals of the Pilot Project:
 - Improve student achievement/graduation rates;
 - Improve professional practice – increase collaboration and professional learning time; and,
 - Improve educator retention, well-being and workload.
- Look at impacts of calendar changes, increasing number of PL Days.
- Supportive feedback from families in school community.
- 3 Ways to Monitor/Assess success of Pilot Project:
 - Provincial Assessments – Report cards, Attendance, Employment Recruitment, Graduation Rates (Admin Data).
 - Surveys – Staff and Student wellness, workload, feedback.
 - Focus Groups – involve Teachers/Staff, Students, Families, PSSC.
- Duration of the Pilot Project: 2025-2027
 - Fall 2025 - survey

- Spring 2026 - Report/Evaluation
- Summer 2026 - Interim Reporting
- Spring 2027 - Comprehensive Report
- Intentional Launch
- Pilot Project Results – results over time. Longitudinal. 2 years study duration is a new statement added in last 5-6 weeks. Look at trends. Compare Pilot Project schools to non-Pilot Project schools. Birchmount School is part of the Pilot Project.
- No set benchmarks 'to hit'; other benefits from Pilot Project?
- Other Jurisdictions/Provinces - some have less instructional hours, some outperform NB – lots of reasons why.
- Grant B. questioned if study duration long enough to see changes over time.
- Jason R. mentioned that 10-12 years ago, schools had more PL Days than the non-Pilot Project schools have today. Some days are determined by the Province.
- Melanie D. mentioned that extra PL Days allows for easier collaboration and better synergy, planning and intervention.
- PL Days allow for: sessions (traditional), collaboration (within and out of school) and individual preparation time.
- Used to have to pull staff out from classrooms – use of substitute teachers/staff, less skilled?

3. Principal's Report from Sandra Savard (Principal)

- 607 Students as of Friday.
- 29 Homerooms – space in English Primary.
- 44 Teaching Staff, 28 Support staff.
- Expecting more Grade 8 students next year.
- Sandra S. anticipates needing 1 more portable for school next year. Playground equipment to be moved, okay to reinstall as < 15 years old but if replacement is necessary, it is covered.
- Sports and clubs: Volleyball, Intramurals, Drama, Breakfast Club, Lunch Monitors, Rock Band, Choir, Concert Band, Playground Pals, Cheer, Environment Club, Art, Tech, DnD, Make It Club, TLC.

Fundraiser:

- Fundraiser on Cash Online \$300 to be refunded. District will pay for kitchen renovation. Provincial and Federal Breakfast Programs.
- Approved, buying appliances; construction to be determined. New kitchen will not be a cafeteria. Hire people to start Lunch Program?

Asbestos Management:

- Floors (8) to be changed in classrooms over the Winter Holiday in 2025.

Provincial Assessment Results:

- School Improvement Plan presented to Superintendent. Chose certain metrics to report; other groups still working on improvements but not reported. SIP was 75 pgs. long so had to simplify and pare down. Lots to monitor monthly.
- Birchmount School – PBIS – was part of the Incubator School Project, now Graduated.
- Literacy:
 - Results are improving. Back to the Science of Reading, no longer using letter grade reading. Consistent use of UFLY and EGLA. Seeing improvement in reading at grade level, English and French. 35% improvement for Gr. 1-2 (current Gr. 3). Gr. 4 results above provincial results.
 - 40% Kindergarten success on EGLA
 - EGLA assessment takes a long time to do, 10.5hrs to assess/student. Partnered with District to determine most important items with EGLA-English. Limited to 10 criteria, some overlap. Will cut down time required to assess. Allows for an increase in time teaching and decrease in time reporting. Teachers now pull and report monthly versus 3 times/year (October, April and June) allowing for earlier intervention, as necessary.
 - Plan is to try to decrease criteria required with EGLA-French assessment in consultation with the District.
 - Improvement seen with French speaking, increased by 31%.
 - Focus on Oral Production but have seen decrease in Reading Comprehension across subjects.
 - Pulling benchmark data over the next few weeks.

ACTION ITEM: Sandra S. to follow up with District regarding the revision of EGLA-French criteria.

- Numeracy:
 - Anticipate a decrease for Gr. 1 (K 83%, Gr.2 81%).
 - Math Workshop Tier 1 – teachers are teaching the right concepts the right way at the right time with the right strategies. decrease in number of students with interventions.
 - Develop a Progress Monitoring Tool.
- Safety/Engagement:
 - Decrease in serious misconducts. Refined expectations, provide Individual Support.
 - Surveys show improvement in school community – feeling safer and more positive attitude.
- Graduation:

- Attendance is a predictor of graduation. Chronic absenteeism is 3 days/month. Numbers have improved for 2025-2026 school year (26% last year, 21% September 2025, 18% October 2025).
- Challenges in immersion - students often switch to English if struggling with French. Newcomer families often start in English and wait until Gr. 6 for Late Immersion.
- HTHS offers the International Baccalaureate Program. HTHS is able to offer more programs and loses fewer student from French Immersion versus other smaller high schools.

4. Birchmount School Property Update

- School Construction:
 - Lobbied for Gym floor – tripping hazard.
 - Kitchen – from different budget than the gym floor.
 - Front entryway (e.g., front/side door, freshen up, new doors) - approved at other schools in Moncton of similar age and design to Birchmount School.

5. Outstanding Items

- Discuss how to deal with Composite Graduation Photos (Sandra) – still on hold. Upcoming school anniversary (60th).
- Christa and Sandra to follow up and coordinate information sessions. Limited time due to Parent Teacher Interviews, PL Days, etc.
- Follow up with AESD about volunteer requirements.
- Identify possible sports/arts/activities for Students.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: January 19/26.

Meeting ended at 7:37 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