

BIRCHMOUNT PSSC MEETING MINUTES

Monday May 25, 2026

Attendees:

Sandra Savard	Nathaniel	Steeves	Lisa Bourgeois	
Grant Bourque	Daphne Hachey		Melanie	Doucet
Kelly Olaveson	Vivian Archibong		Christa Kirk	
Vivian Lam	Firas Nasser Eddine		Keisha McIntosh	

Meeting started at 6:36 pm by Grant Bourque

1. Opening

- Introduction of Members - all attendees introduced by name.
- Meeting Minutes from March 23, 2026 - PSSC Meeting reviewed. No changes required. Meeting Minutes approved by Lisa B., seconded by Sandra S.

2. School Improvement Plan Update: Sandra Savard (Principal)

- SIP Update presented to School Superintendent – May 2026 Update.
 - Literacy:
 - Want students reading at grade level.
 - EGLA – 50 measures to assess, 3x/year, 49mins/student to assess.
 - Identified predictors of reading success so able to reduce to 12 indicators for student assessments. Able to assess fewer indicators, more times/year - 10 assessments now vs. 3 assessments in past/year.
 - Allows for earlier and faster assessments and interventions, more learning time. More students at grade level at report card time.
 - Observed improvement in student results between 2025 and 2026 for K-Gr.2.
 - French – reading comprehension, reading strategies, targeted interventions.
 - Numeracy:
 - Want students at grade level. Want to increase number of students achieving proficiency at grade level. Provincial Assessment – Gr. 5.
 - Improved Tier 1 numbers. Conducted workshops.
 - Observed gradual improvement, all students improved. Nice alignment with Teacher predictions/estimates.
 - Staff and Student Safety:
 - Want Staff and Students to feel safe and cared for at school.
 - Observed reduction in the number of serious misconducts. Staff and Student perceptions on safety have improved.
 - Decreased misconducts to 11.4/month. Want 8.9/month (and lower), which was achieved in March 2026.
 - Staff safety survey results improved from 64% in 2022-2023 to 88% in 2025-2026.

- Graduation Rates:
 - Want Students to Graduate from High School.
 - Observed school success tied to attendance. 40% of chronic absentees miss 10%/month.
 - Attendance rates can be affected by snow days and PL Days, which can inflate absenteeism rates.
 - Attendance rates are improving; post on Birchmount School Facebook – 284 Students had perfect attendance in April 2026.
- Celebrations:
 - EGLA and UFLI results showed significant growth – conducting assessments more often was an effective strategy.
 - Strengthened PLC Teams.
 - Staff have adopted ownership of SIP.
 - Continue to maintain improved attendance rates.
 - Continue to improve instructional practices, assess plans, continue to build K–Gr. 2.
 - Success is contagious. Very good results achieved. Long-term Student growth.

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

- 596 Students (decrease of about 6 Students), 29 Homerooms.
- 75 Staff: 35 Teachers (1 returned from Maternity Leave), 4 EST-Resource, 1 EST-Guidance, 1 Academic Support Teacher, 1 EST-EAL, 1 ELL Tutor, 1 BIM, 21 EAs, 2 Admin Assistants, 5 Custodians, 3 Administrators.
- Student Life – Current Student Activities:
 - Softball, Track and Field, Cheer, Rock Band, Choir, Band, TLC, GSA, D&D, Gaming Club, Makers Club, Crochet/Knitting Club, PAL and Lunch Monitors.
- Planning for 2026-2027 School Year:
 - Predicting 31 Homerooms (632 Students) for 2026-2027.
 - Smaller group of Gr. 8 Students graduating this year (63 Students).
 - Kindergarten numbers still lower than expected (35 Students registered); staffed for 3 classes. Registration tends to trickle in. Numbers possibly low because of registering at the Welcome Centre – extra steps to register. Preregistration numbers might not be included in numbers if registration has not been completed (e.g., address is missing).
 - Losing EL Room and Rm 104 – Late Immersion-Grade 6.
 - Asking for another portable. PSSC Members could follow up with Local Rep to advocate.
 - Increase in EST-Guidance staffing (1.0 to 2.0) - focus on early years K-Gr. 4. Mr. Quiring to continue with Middle School.

- Pilot School Calendar Project, Year 2 – maintain with 11 current Pilot Schools (no new schools added this year).
- Breakfast Club – good, serving breakfast sandwiches, pancakes and Great Canadian Bagels.
- Provincial School Lunch Program – Sandra S. presented the “New Brunswick School Lunch Program – Principal and Staff Q&A” Document, prepared by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, May 2026.
 - K to Gr. 8 - \$4 per lunch – includes drink, main dish, fruit. Available starting in September 2026. 2 healthy meal options will be offered daily, including a vegetarian option.
 - The province subsidizes the difference between the full meal price and the price paid by families.
 - Provincial Program is Mandatory for all schools in NB, but participation by families is not mandatory.
 - Birchmount School is a Hub Site – food will be prepared at Bernice MacNaughton High School and transported to Birchmount School daily. Orders are entered online the day before delivery. Food provider is Chartwell. Program will not impact the Home and School Committee Pizza Days/Fundraisers, both can run at the same time. News coming soon.
 - The school’s role is mainly to support the initial launch and act as the first point of contact for the Program.
 - Concern whether lunch program is adaptable if there are delivery delays. Sandra S. said Students go outside then have lunch. Lunch period can be tweaked/adjusted as necessary, lunch program can adapt.
 - Pre-ordered lunches will be delivered to each class in an insulated box. No additional work expected for Staff. Chartwell will pick up dishes at the end of lunch. Likely to have more waste/garbage. Concern with possibility of increased waste production raised.
 - Expect that lunches will be on a schedule e.g., Weeks 1-4. Weekly schedules/menus; can place orders in advance online.
 - Discussed possibility of using membership system for Home and School Committee Pizza and Popcorn Days (fundraisers).

4. Birchmount School Property Update: Sandra Savard (Principal)

- Construction Updates:

- Kitchen Renovations – completed.
- Gymnasium – Sandra S. was asked for paint colours; climbing apparatus to be taken down for renovations. District approved new gym floor; budget to cover

flooring, paint and ceiling tiles (due to leak). Budget for extra Gym projects to be covered by Birchmount School and the Home and School Committee.

- Front Entry – improvements to include new paint, new sign and new doors. New school sign (with bear head) has been designed but the City needs to approve/permit because it is front facing; paint brick black? New doors cost about \$17K. District to pay for doors? Hoping to share cost of the project 3 ways – Birchmount School, District Office and Home and School Committee (through fundraising).

5. Safety Issues/Miscellaneous:

- Safe Drop-Off/Ayer Ave.
 - Grant B. expressed concern with the status of lines painted on roads around Birchmount School – paint has faded. Sandra S. has heard of City issues. Believed to be related to a change in paint formulation – removal of lead, new paint formula does not last as long.
 - Christa K. mentioned the Crossing Guard is doing a good job.
 - Change in traffic in neighbourhood due to opening of roundabout – Ayer Ave./Worthington Ave.
 - Drop off seems better. Still some parking/stopping issues. Poor paint makes it hard to determine lanes. Cars park at sidewalk at back of school. Dismissal of all Students at 2:40pm (1 dismissal time) still complicated with cars stopped/parked on Summerhill Dr., with K-Gr. 2 Teacher-to-Parent/Guardian dismissal.
 - Sandra S. expects that with better weather, more Students will walk/bike to school. Sandra S. to send reminder email.
 - Will there be a study regarding the new roundabout? Will drivers cut through from the roundabout from Mountain Rd to Killam Dr? Will traffic patterns change?
 - Grant B. to email City re: road paint issues.

ACTION ITEM: Grant B. to follow up with the City of Moncton regarding painted lines on roads around Birchmount School and potential traffic studies.

6. Membership Review

- If less than 12 PSSC Members, no elections needed.
- Members often help with letter writing/emails, Walkathon donations, etc. Not a large time commitment/year.
- Sandra S. mentioned that our PSSC is a great group.

7. Outstanding Items

- Discuss how to deal with Composite Graduation Photos (Sandra S.) – still on hold.
- Christa K. and Sandra S. to follow up and coordinate information sessions.
- Follow up with ASD-East about volunteer requirements.
- Identify possible sports/arts/activities for Students.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD *dates/times for 2026-2027 school year to be discussed and set.

Meeting ended at 7:18 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