BIRCHMOUNT PSSC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday September 22, 2026

Attendees:

Sandra Savard	Stacy Garland		Owen Brinson
Grant Bourque	Melanie	Doucet	Kelly Olaveson
Vivian Lam	Christa Kirk		Vivian Archibong

Meeting started at 6:37 pm by Grant Bourque

1. **Opening**

- All Birchmount PSSC Members present in-person at meeting filled out PSSC Member 2026-2027 paperwork and contact information page.
- Introduction of Members - all attendees introduced by name.

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

- Ended last school year with approximately 590 students. The 2026-2027 school year is starting with 601 Students and 31 Homerooms. Approximate Student numbers:
    - K-Gr. 5 = 358 Students, Gr. 6-8 (Middle School) = 243 Students
    - Early FI = 205 Students, Late FI = 96 Students, English = 300 Students
- School Leadership:
    - Principal - Sandra Savard
    - VP K-Gr. 4 - Stacy Garland
    - VP Gr. 5-8 - Tim Carson
- Staff include: 50 Teachers, 20 EAs, 5 Resource Teachers, 2 Guidance Teachers, 1 Academic Support Teacher, 1 English as an Additional Language Teacher, 2 Behaviour Intervention Mentors and 5 Custodial Staff. Have Resource Teachers available to work with Exceptional Needs Students.
- New Gym floors and upgrades were completed over the summer. Benefits of improved space include: a. enhanced physical education, b. improved extracurricular opportunities, c. better space for assemblies and events and d. long-term benefits for the Community.
- New school signage at Safe Drop-off Door.
- Student Life – Current Student Activities:
    - Cheer, Cross-Country, Soccer, Rock Band, Choir, Band, TLC, GSA, D&D, Gaming Club, Makers Club, PAL and Lunch Monitors.
- Pilot School Calendar Project, Year 2, 10 Additional PL Days vs. non-Pilot Schools:
    - Observed improved practices and collaboration, improved student achievement.
    - Update on Pilot Project, Year 1 - some 'birds eye view' assessment, no in-depth assessment yet. Still a Research Project. Provincial Assessment results seem to show improvement. Pilot Schools seem advanced compared to non-Pilot Schools, e.g., early grade literacy at Pilot Schools outpaces non-Pilot Schools.

The School District started an initial assessment of the Pilot Program at the start of this school year. UNB is also involved.
    - Teachers at Pilot Schools have more collaboration and learning opportunities.
    - Sandra S. attended PSSC Meetings at non-Pilot Schools. Extra PL Days allows for more collaboration; not sure when non-Pilot Schools have time to work on collaboration.
    - Good Parent/Guardian/Family partnership at Birchmount School.
    - This is the 1st year that Sandra S. has access to Provincial Assessment results on a student basis - allows for comparing a single student's assessment results over years, e.g., Gr. 5 vs. Gr. 7 results. In the past, access was only to Provincial Assessment results based on School/Province.
    - Report cards are subjective while Provincial Assessments are not; can compare Birchmount School to Birchmount School results, not Birchmount School to other schools.
    - PL Day Plan for this Friday is finished.
- Fall Fair is coming up on September 24, 2026. The new Provincial School Lunch Program started at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.
- Continuing to focus on 4 Pillars - Literacy, Numeracy, Wellbeing and Safety, Graduation Rates. Sandra S. to share SIP Plan at next PSSC Meeting.
- NB - ended up last in International Student Achievement.
    - Only jurisdiction with inclusion and immersion. Inclusion involves all students going to school in regular classes, not segregated, regardless of disability. Learn life and functional skills.
    - Assessment does not determine why unsuccessful just 'yes' unsuccessful. Worst results in Canada and they decreased from last assessment. Used a small sample size, assessed using PISA.
- Principals from Pilot Schools to meet in October 2026 to discuss Pilot Program and also use of AI in schools (e.g., help scheduling support staff), classrooms and as part of the school curriculum (e.g., AI has been implemented and embedded in curriculum). Sandra S. presented an example of using AI as a tool to save time scheduling staff, but human components are still required. Sandra S. reported 1 student at Birchmount School (in Gr. 1) has opted out of using AI in the classroom. AESD is planning a session on how to use AI properly, ethically and on a grade-appropriate basis.

ACTION ITEM: Sandra S. to ask Jason to review updated Pilot Project assessment data; results to be presented at the next PSSC Meeting.

3. **School Improvement Plan Update: Sandra Savard (Principal)**

- Sandra S. will present SIP Update to Birchmount PSSC Members at the next PSSC meeting.

4. **Safe Schools Update: Stacy Garland (Vice-Principal)**

- School Evacuation Drill scheduled for next week. Students and Staff to evacuate to NBCC - the new roundabout at the end of Ayer Ave. means there is a new path to use,

then enter NBCC at D3 door. Sandra S. to communicate to families, RCMP and District Office.

- Evacuation Plan and Staging Areas:
    - Some Birchmount School Staff members have been designated to drive from Birchmount School to NBCC. Staff are to be stationed along the evacuation route as Students walk to NBCC.
    - Teachers are to bring Emergency Binders and Nametags (to help Parents/Guardians/Families identify Teachers/Staff).
    - Media Staging Area - 80 Mapleton Rd. at the Giant Tiger.
    - Parents/Guardians/Families Staging Area - 1106 Mountain Rd. at the U-Haul location.
    - Nobody outside of Students and Staff are to go to Birchmount School or NBCC.
    - Previous evacuation events by Staff and Students were due to a bomb threat, a furnace back up, possible fire, possible gas leak. Evacuate school if building is unsafe and/or based on RCMP advice.

5. Safety Issues/Miscellaneous:

- <u>Safe Drop-Off/Ayer Ave.</u>
    - Changes have been made to traffic and roads around Birchmount School (e.g., Ayer Ave. roundabout), but Grant B. has not heard about results of changes now that school has started. Traffic has been busy since school started. Berry Mills is busy. The intersection at Ayer Ave. and Gatineau St. is busier.
    - The Kiss and Drop is working well, everyone eased back into routines and hit the ground running.
    - No Parents/Guardians/Families are to be in the schoolyard/on the playground during school hours (8:10am-2:40pm).
    - The Crossing Guard on Ayer Ave. is doing a good job, very serious.
    - All students (about 600 students) are dismissed at 2:40pm. K-Gr. 2 dismissed Teacher to Parent/Guardian/Family on the playground. People park on Summerhill Dr. to get out of cars to pick up younger students.
    - Owen B. commented that afternoon traffic has not been too much yet.

6. School Property Updates: Sandra Savard (Principal)

- Construction completed on the Kitchen and the Gym floor.
- Sandra S. and the Home and School Committee are looking to replace the divider curtain in the Gym - about 60yrs old. Getting quotes for replacement.
- No new construction projects on the radar at this time.
- Sandra S. would still like to work on the front entrance and school doors - mostly cosmetic (e.g., repaint interior). New classroom doors - 60 doors and door jams at $1200/ea. Doors are old (e.g., grandfathered under current regulations) - new doors mean increased safety, decreased noise, act as a fire door.
- Discussed moving lockers into hallways instead of classrooms, as they were in the past. In classrooms, the number of lockers needed/class changes year-to-year. Melanie D.

mentioned that she has 30 lockers in her classroom this year with fewer than 20 students. Portable classrooms have new lockers. Some Middle School classrooms have lockers while others do not (e.g., Ms. Davis' classroom has lockers, but Ms. Daley's classroom does not). Space has to be left around/in front of lockers in classrooms for students to be able to access them, taking up extra classroom space.

Meeting Minutes from May 25, 2026 - Birchmount School PSSC Meeting were reviewed. No changes required. Meeting Minutes approved by Sandra S.

7. **Birchmount School PSSC Meeting Schedule for the 2026-2027 School Year**

- Meeting dates and times for the current school year were discussed by PSSC Members attending the meeting in-person. Monday meetings still work for PSSC Members. Avoid the 3rd Monday of the month due to school district meetings. The following dates and times have been set for PSSC Meetings for the 2026-2027 school year:

  * November 23rd, 2026 @ 6:30pm
  * January 18th, 2027 @ 6:30pm
  * March 22nd, 2027 @ 6:30pm
  * May 17th, 2027 @ 6:30pm

8. **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.
- Identify possible sports/arts/activities for Students.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: November 23rd, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Meeting ended at 7:24 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