

KVHS PSSC MINUTES

Location: KVHS Library
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023
Time: 6:30-8:00PM
Facilitator: Jana Comeau

Minutes

1. In Attendance: Jen Roberts, Eric Urquhart (student leadership representative), Mary Ellen Veale, Roger Nesbitt (DEC representative), JoEllen Jensen (Principal), Bill Allen, Paul Doiron, Heather Noseworthy, Jana Comeau (Chair).
2. Meeting called to order at 6:35PM.
3. School Improvement Plan – Review (JoEllen Jensen): JoEllen presented an overview of the current SIP draft which has been developed over the past few months. It is focused on the following three pillars: Full details attached as **Appendix A**.
 - a. **Intervention** strategies for students who are struggling.
 - b. Triangulation of Data to reduce number of incomplete assignments and courses.
 - c. **Social and Emotional Learning** and relationship building outside of the classroom. Due to the pandemic, students have not been able to build the relationships and participate activities outside of the classroom that help them to succeed in the classroom. This school year has seen a return to celebrations, clubs, teams and activities which are being supported throughout the school.

Pursuant to the overview, a discussion ensued that considered the following points:

- How does our curriculum compare to other nations in math and science outcomes? One parent is concerned that we are lagging based on feedback from international students who have recently attended or are currently attending the school.
- The Province's new high school curriculum, being introduced in the 2023/2024 school year, hopes to strengthen the engagement of students by allowing them to take courses that interest them at an earlier age.
- All students are being trained on the MyBlueprint software, an ePortfolio program that will enable students to learn about themselves and find meaningful pathways to post-secondary training and employment goals following high school.
- Grade 9 curriculum changing to competency-based model versus contact hours – changes may include microcourses, grade 9 teaching teams, etc
- Absenteeism rates continue to be high post Covid, not only at KVHS but province wide.

- PSSC Chairs were invited to attend a consultation on the proposed French Language education changes on February 6th, but the invitation was sent too late to rearrange schedules.

4. Reports

5.1 Principal's Report (JoEllen Jensen)

- Arts
 - Preparations for Mamma Mia the Musical are underway and it will be presented April 19-22 and 26-29.
 - Ms. McIntyre has received a grant that will benefit the music program.
 - A grant was received to bring in an artist-in-residency program that will be focused on grade 10 students. The area of focus will be pottery.
 - A grant was received for the step program aimed at developing more teachers in applied trades.
- Sports
 - Basketball is finishing its season with junior varsity teams vying for provincial championships this weekend and varsity teams competing at regionals.
 - The Saint John Sea Dogs have issued a high school challenge and have provided 250 tickets to Saturday's game to each school. The school demonstrating the most team spirit will be recognized.
- Academics
 - Eight new essential skills students have started in this program this term.
 - Course selection for 2023-2024 is currently underway.
 - 331 exam exemptions were issued under the new school policy in which students who have completed all assessments for the period can opt out of the exam.
 - Mr. Derek O'Brien, the new Superintendent of Schools recently visited the school and students were on their best behaviour.
 - The Kennys, the annual awards ceremony honoring academics, arts and athletics, is being planned again for this spring.
 - Next week is staff appreciation week. The PSSC members agreed to organize a candy car for students on Tuesday.
 - Nikki the Knight has a new Facebook page.
 - KVHS students sponsored 14 families during the past holiday season.
 - Two events supported the local women's shelter, Hestia House:
 - Mr. Standing's class.
 - Students from Ms. Humphries Gender Studies class raised over \$600 dollars and a large clothing donation.

5.2 Student Leadership Report (Eric Urquhart)

- Past Events (December)
 - Coffee House
 - Cabaret Dance
 - Holiday Week – candy cane grams, comfy day/hot chocolate, grad class yankee swap/cookie decorating, color wars, student breakfast
 - January
 - Bring Your Own Banana for grads
 - Blue and White day

- Upcoming
 - Clan wars
 - Trivia Kahoot
 - Limbo
 - Wednesday night movie night
 - Clan clothing
 - Swinter week (week before March Break)

5. DEC (Roger Nesbitt)

- DEC meets tomorrow night at 7pm. 490 Woodward Avenue
- No updates since our last meeting
- Ministers forum - Meeting of all chairs/vice chairs will be meeting with the Minister on February 16th
- 2 new schools have been approved for Saint John – one in North end to replace Hazen White and Centennial (K-5), and one in South End to replace which will be a K-8 school.
- There is speculation that the proposed changes to the French Immersion program will be shelved.

6. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 6:30PM.

7. Once Around the Table: n/a

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.