

**KVHS PSSC Minutes
January 16, 2018 (Regular Meeting)**

Present – Gail Evans Brown, Colleen Flower (teacher representative), Jackie Isada, JoEllen Jensen (Principal), Jennifer LeBlanc, Carolyn McCoy (Chair), Doug Myles

Regrets – Darren Ferguson, Ron Lockhart, Sandra MacDougall, Tracy MacPhee, Rob Mandeville, Holly DeWolf, and Ellen Snider

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM. PSSC members were welcomed and introductions were made around the table. Quorum was achieved.

2. Approval of the Agenda

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

Motion to Approve: Colleen Flower

Second: Gail Evans Brown

Motion carried.

3. Approval of October Minutes

It was noted that the minutes read “November 2018”, and that Jennifer LeBlanc’s name was left off the Regrets list. These errors will be corrected.

Motion to Approve (with the above corrections): Doug Myles

Second: Colleen Flower

Motion carried.

4. Correspondence

PSSC members were notified of the Spring Symposium on May 4-6, 2018 in Fredericton. PSSC members are invited to attend. The deadline to register is March 30.

Action: Forward information to PSSC (Carolyn)

5. Student Representative Report

There were no student representatives available to attend the meeting.

6. Outstanding Action Items

There were no outstanding action items.

7. New Business:

a. Safe Grad 2018 (Gail):

- The fundraising activities have not raised as much as in previous years. The organizing committee noted that there are fewer committee members with fundraising expertise, as compared to previous years’ committees.
- The cost of Safe Grad 2017 was \$77/student.

- There will be a dance on St. Patrick's Day to raise money for Safe Grad.
- Jackie has experience and expertise in fundraising and will touch base with Gail to see how she can help.
- The PSSC was asked to spread word of the dance, and to communicate fundraising ideas to Gail or other members of the Safe Grad committee.

b. Me to We (Jackie)

- Saint John has just been selected as a Me to We site for 2018. Jackie will forward information to the committee members for their information.

8. Principal's Report

a. Exemptions: In addition to attendance requirement, the revised policy requires students to be passing all subjects, and to have completed all major course components. Students cannot be penalized for missing time due to a chronic medical condition. JoEllen noted that there is some subjectivity in terms of how a major course component is defined. She also noted that, for privacy reasons, she does not delve into chronic medical conditions when this is communicated by a parent as the reason behind an absence.

Action: Enquire if Exemption policy will be reviewed with feedback from stakeholders (JoEllen)

b. Review of results from National OurSchool Survey (perception survey): JoEllen distributed the summary results of the survey to the committee. The results were reviewed and it was noted that KVHS students report a higher incidence of anxiety and depression, and lower rates of a sense of belonging than their peers nationally. As the survey results were newly-received by the office, the administrative team had not yet had the opportunity to "drill down" into the results, although there are features in the software that will allow for this. There was some discussion about how the school can address this, and JoEllen noted that the administration would be discussing this.

Action: "Drill down" on OurSchool survey questions relating to anxiety and depression so that the committee can better understand the questions and results (JoEllen)

c. PBIS School: KVHS is a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support School, and has received additional funding to support positive behavioral interventions. Among these activities are Advisory class photos and the purchase of a KVHS T-shirt for each grade 9 student. It is hoped that these actions help promote a sense of belonging.

9. Once Around the Table

a. Jackie asked if there were cannabis policies in place or under development, in light of the upcoming legalization of this drug. JoEllen has asked, but has not yet received any information from the district.

Action: Update PSSC when district has determined how legalization of cannabis will be managed in school (JoEllen)

b. Carolyn: The judges from this event passed their congratulations on the school for the success of its recent Entrepreneur Fair, and on the quality of the projects.

c. Rob (via Carolyn): With influenza season upon us, it is important to ensure that the bathrooms have sufficient handwashing supplies. JoEllen will remind custodial staff of this.

d. Gail: There seems to be some discrepancy in how non-payment of sports fees is managed between teams. It is up to the coaches to police this issue, and the school will cover fees when financial need exists. It was noted that a staff member commented on a student's non-payment of fees on social media, and that this was not appreciated by members of the parent community. Committee members are asked to encourage parents to contact the school if they are unable to pay fees, as all winter sports teams have a "no pay, no play" policy.

This generated wider discussion about payment of school fees. A large percentage of families do not pay their school fees, and there is no fund to cover costs when fees are not paid. Rothesay High is piloting a cashless system, and there is hope that this will increase the percentage of fees that are collected, and that this system will be more widely implemented across the district. There was a question if PowerSchool could include a field to indicate whether or not fees have been paid as a reminder to parents.

10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Gail Evans Brown
The meeting was adjourned at 8:43PM.