

**KVHS PSSC Minutes**  
**March 19, 2018 (Regular Meeting)**

Present – Gail Evans Brown, Darren Ferguson, Paula Galbraith (teacher representative), JoEllen Jensen (Principal), Jennifer LeBlanc, Ron Lockhart, Carolyn McCoy (Chair), Doug Myles, Roger Nesbitt (DEC representative), Charlotte Pollard (student representative)

Regrets – Jackie Isada, Sandra MacDougall, Tracy MacPhee, Rob Mandeville, Holly DeWolf, and Ellen Snider

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. PSSC members were welcomed and introductions were made. Paula Galbraith is replacing Colleen Flower, who has taken a position as a literacy mentor at the middle school level. Quorum was achieved.

It was noted that there was no meeting in February, as there were not a sufficient number of members available.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

Motion to Approve: ??

Second: ??

Motion carried.

**3. Approval of January Minutes**

It was noted that the minutes had an error. It should have been recorded that students will not be penalized for absences *due to appointments relating to a chronic medical condition* when their eligibility for exemptions is determined.

Motion to Approve (with the above corrections): Darren Ferguson

Second: Jennifer LeBlanc

Corrected minutes will be sent to Cynthia LeBlanc to be posted on the KVHS website (Carolyn).

Motion carried.

The action items from the January meeting were reviewed:

- Information on the spring symposium was emailed to PSSC members.
- The exemption guidelines are not policy and the district will not be seeking feedback on them.
- The results of the perception survey relating to students' sense of belonging, rates of anxiety and rates of depression were investigated and compared to a replica school (i.e. a school with similar characteristics to KVHS). KVHS has lower rates of anxiety and depression than the replica school. There does not appear to be an association between school size or academic pressure and the survey data relating to these three areas of concern. KV staff have had some focus groups with students in grades nine and 11. Grade nine students reported that the size of KVHS can be overwhelming. Grade 11 students reported more social pressure. These may be contributing factors to the data. The school will continue with its PBIS initiatives and will continue to look at ways of addressing these areas of concern. JoEllen Jensen provided a hard copy of some "drilled down" data relating to the perception survey available to committee members to review.

- Posters listing medically-related information associated with cannabis use were ordered from the NB Medical Society. The district has been focusing on human resource-related cannabis policies. Policies relating to students are still pending.
- Custodial staff were instructed to make sure the bathrooms were stocked with soap and paper towels.

#### 4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to share.

#### 5. Student Representative Report

Charlotte Pollard told the committee that there is a grade 11 movie night scheduled for March 21. She noted that most of the upcoming events, other than the musical, are planned for May. The Grad Class dinner is planned for May 24<sup>th</sup>. Nominations for grad class superlatives have recently closed and voting will soon be underway. Leadership elections will also occur in May.

#### 6. Outstanding Action Items

Budget update: The budget had to be spent prior to this March meeting. As the February meeting did not occur, it could not be discussed by the group. Some of the budget was used to purchase recognition ballots for the "I am a Crusader" positive behaviour awards, and some was spent for the Renaissance Crusader Champion tickets.

The budget should be an agenda item for January 2019.

#### 7. New Business:

##### a. Feedback on new Professional Learning Model

The PSSC has been asked to provide feedback regarding this year's new Professional Learning model, where staff professional development occurs in the afternoon once students have attended classes in the morning. Roger Nesbitt noted that this model has been used elsewhere in NB for a few years. A link to a two-question survey was sent to each PSSC Chair. The questions were discussed and Carolyn will submit the committee's comments. The link to the survey will be shared for committee members who wish to add additional comments. The deadline to complete the survey is March 31, 2018.

The committee comments were:

*Please provide feedback on early release professional learning days for educators:*

- Students have expressed that they feel that there is less time to work in class/a loss of instructional time due to this model. This may be due to a lack of understanding that different methods of delivering information may not be recognized by students as learning time.
- Staff find that the PD activities are more focused with the half-day model.
- It may be too soon to evaluate this as more time may be required for this to become the norm.
- Attendance has been fairly consistent with the Tuesday before and Thursday after the half day.

*What communication strategies/messages are needed for parents next year?*

- The committee felt that sufficient notice had been given for this new model.

b. Process for feedback on Principal's work with the PSSC

The process and questions were reviewed with the committee, so that members could have time to think about their comments. The questions will be e-mailed to committee members, and the questionnaire will be completed by the committee at the April meeting. (It was noted that the Chair will be absent from that meeting.) The deadline to complete the process is May 30, 2018.

## **8. Principal's Report**

### **9. Once Around the Table**

Jennifer LeBlanc noted that the hard copy of survey data that was shared earlier in the meeting indicated that students who indicated through their survey responses that they had been expelled or had repeated a grade also reported higher levels of anxiety and depression than students who had not been expelled or repeated a grade. It was noted that factors external to school may contribute to the reasons for expulsion/repeated grades, and that the causes of the higher level of anxiety/depression were likely multifactorial.

Ron Lockhart noted that he has had parents comment about their child receiving traffic tickets on school property. The committee felt that the efforts of the Kennebecasis Regional Police are important on ensuring student safety in the parking lot.

Darren Ferguson noted that teacher departures mid-year or mid-term are disruptive to course delivery. Roger Nesbitt and JoEllen Jensen indicated that efforts are made to minimize such staffing changes mid-year, but that they are sometimes unavoidable (E.g. maternity leaves).

Roger Nesbitt commented that he was happy to be able to attend this meeting. Three of the five PSSCs that he sits on meet on Mondays, so he is unable to attend each of the meetings. He is on the PSSC distribution list and received PSSC minutes via email.

Carolyn McCoy noted that the school had provided timely information relating to the recent perceived threat relating to a firearm and that this was appreciated by many parents.

### **10. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: Doug Myles

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM.