

Minutes from the February 16th, 2022, PSSC meeting

Present:

Samantha Bingham SRC co-chair Chris Bingham Jason Johannsson-Morris

Samantha Bingham co-chare of the Belleisle Regional High School Student Council presented the students report:

Student council is planning a theme week for the week before March break. We will be trying out a few new theme ideas.

Love - a - grams were sold the week leading up to Valentine's Day for 1 \$ each and was delivered during 4th period Valentine's Day. We sold close to 100 of them.

Popcorn Fridays were on hold for the last month and a half, but we are starting them again. Bags are \$1:00 each.

Plans are being worked on for a theme week during the spring and a possible Easter dinner for the whole school, which we have not done since 2020.

Before the Christmas break SRC had the opportunity to take part in an online conference with other schools and shared ideas and thoughts on events happening within the schools. This conference is held every year and is usually in person sessions on how to build school spirit and to connect students and staff to the school. It is called the New Brunswick Student Leadership Conference.

Mrs. Watson our district superintendent was online, and she asked us a bunch of questions about our school and how we thought things were going, and what we could do to make the school better.

A question was asked to Sam about how students felt about being back in the building full time.

Sam's response was that they are both happy and a little scared. Happy that they are getting to see their friends again and scared that they are going to catch COVID and take it home to their families.

Mrs. Thibault presented the staff report:

The staff is glad to have the student back full-time for in-person learning. Online teaching and learning present many different challenges and we are happy to be back to teaching the way that we are comfortable with. Even though we are glad to have students back in the building, the number of cases in our area/province is a concern. Some staff care for elderly parents or family members with health issues, and some are around kids who are too young to receive the vaccine.

Picking the virus up at school and bringing it home to a loved one is something that is always on our minds as we are exposed to lots of people throughout the course of a day. We hope cases continue to decline and that second semester has as few interruptions as possible.

Teacher concerns

There seems to be an increase in students with mental health needs and behavioral needs. Some of these behaviours and needs are causing disruptions in student learning. Currently there is a team in place to support these students, but it is still challenging. BRHS staff care about all our students, and they just want the best for them. Staff are tired and worried that they are not meeting the needs of all their students. With COVID attendance has become a concern as there is an increase in the number of students absent from school due to being sick. If students are unvaccinated, they can be away from school for 10 days. That is a lot of time missed, even with TEAMS providing the opportunity to get your work online.

Principal's report

We are still working on finding a French Immersion teacher to cover for Mrs. Thibault as she began her maternity leave earlier than expected. No luck yet finding a replacement. District has taken on the task of finding a replacement teacher. We have had a French speaking teacher in the room most of the time, but it is still challenging for the students. Regarding staffing Mrs. McFadden are already looking at what we will need for next year,

Essential Skills Achievement Pathway is up and running and we have 5 students in the class. They have begun to complete some of their outcomes, and they are excited about the program and are currently planning some projects that they want to work on. With students help and input we are filling out grant applications to support the projects that they want to complete.

District office has created a plan to cover BRHS is we are short teachers, do to COVID. They have given BRHS and BES a supply teacher to share along with BRHS have two district staff that we can call in if we are short. We have had to use them several times to date, and they have been very helpful.

Lindsay Mercer, Jessica Coleman, and Marcel Delong have provided several wellness activities for the staff. They are working hard to keep the mora high in the building. They were great during staff appreciation week, bring in lots of treats for the staff.

Prom and graduation will look much the same as it has for the last two years. Parents will continue to organize prom, safe grad and the grand march for the students and we will look at a drive-in graduation for the grad class. Lots of positive feedback on the outdoor graduation ceremony that we have done for the last two years. Parents felt it was much more personal and relaxed.

