



ROTHESAY HIGH SCHOOL

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CHRISTINA BARRINGTON PRINCIPAL
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RHS (virtual) PSSC regular meeting minutes November 24th, 2020 Location: Microsoft TEAMS

Chair: Sam Shaw and Liz Tait

PSSC Members Present: Sam Shaw, Christina Barrington, Sara Shillington, Tracey LeRoy, Liz Nice, Deanne Long, Suzie Villacastin, Liz Tait, JoAnne Henderson, Christine Reevey, Angela Warman, Kevin Finnigan, Craig Woolard, and Jon Barry

	Discussion	Action/Motion
1	Review and approval of the agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liz Tait• Second: JoAnne
2	Review and approval of meeting minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve: Elizabeth Nice• Second: Deanne
3	Business arising from the minutes: - Christina comments: no grade 9 immunization rescheduled yet.	
	New business: Student Report: Events in November:	

- We had a very successful Wellness week! This took place the week after report cards were received, and found it was great timing, and it helped a lot of students during a stressful time.

- We raised money for Movember as well!! We will tone it down with the non-incentive fundraising for a while because we have done a lot in a short amount of time.

- We have an upcoming Media Competition, where students will participate in spirit days. They will post their participation on their Instagram stories and will be entered to win a prize!

Upcoming Events In December:

- 12 Days of Christmas is back! We will have 12 days of Holiday-themed spirit days to celebrate! We are hoping to also have some education on other Holidays that students celebrate in our building!

-Our Annual Bingo is still a go for the moment! This is a fundraiser to help less fortunate RHS Families during the holidays! (All of this will be done in a COVID-19 protocol approved way!)

Happy Holidays!

Principal's Report:

- **COVID update:** RHS has one positive case.

- We are now in the orange phase. Masks are always to be worn except when eating (must be 2m apart to eat) during homeroom or lunchtime. Students need to be aware of the mandatory mask rule in public places and the single family bubble. Students cannot travel to school in cars with people outside their family bubble.
- We were able to have a virtual Remembrance Day assembly thanks to Jenny Shea!
- Virtual Parent Teacher: The link will be copied onto the home reports and shared via School Messenger on Sunday. Interviews are booked by parents and you are sent a calendar notification. Interviews are 10 min in length with a 5 minute buffer.
- Meeting Expectations – The column has been helpful. It allows parents to see which subjects students may be struggling in.
- Pause Week – many students reported feeling relaxed.
- **ASD-S Assessment Week:** The following guidelines were developed through consultation with the 14 high school principals of ASD-S. District staff captured the feedback of Administrators and CLTs to create draft guidelines in order to provide schools with a framework from which to work within while also **honouring school autonomy** as they attempt to **build upon progressive assessment and evaluation practices** that have been embedded over the past decade. Schools have worked diligently to quell myths about assessment ranging from the notion that all subjects need to have traditional written exams to the belief that academic rigor is measured by quantity and not quality.
- Substantial progress has been made in assessment in recent years through the work of the Provincial High School Assessment Committee (JoEllen Jensen, Brad Stevens, Krista Amos), ongoing work

with assessment leaders such as Sandra Herbst, Myron Dueck, and Peter DeWitt, and concentrated focus at the school level. **Twelve of fourteen ASD-S high schools identify assessment as a priority in School Improvement Plans**, and it is included in the District Improvement Plan.

- ASD-S is not mandating a standardized approach to final assessments. It is instead encouraging teachers to continue to critically reflect on the best methods to measure student learning in their subject area. In most subject areas, a traditional two hour written exam is not the best means to gather evidence of student learning. Teachers are encouraged to reflect on these best practices with their administrators, PLC's, SPRs, and curriculum coordinators.
- The pandemic has created challenges in all ASD-S schools, particularly high school; however, crisis situations can provide conditions to create lasting change. Several teachers in ASD-S have made changes to final assessment practices in recent years, moving away from timed exams, and the district continues to encourage and support these innovative practices. Working in smaller classes this year makes it an opportune time for teachers who are considering changes to their final assessment practices to take the plunge. Teachers are encouraged to reach out to their SPRs, school administrators, and Subject Area Coordinators for guidance and feedback around alternative assessment practices.
- We would like to roll through with our alternating schedule through to the Thursday of the assessment week. We would like to have the Friday for a marking day for teachers in order to leave the turnaround days for preparing TEAMS for S2.

- We have decided to not run conventional exams at all. Teachers are designing cumulative assessments of different types – interviews, projects, labs etc. Unit tests will provide the summative feedback in subjects that are heavy in content.
- This will also allow teachers to cover more material from their curriculum up until the week before the assessment week which we feel is a higher priority for students over exam skills as most universities are adapting to virtual, open book assessments and projects. (Traditionally, very little new content is taught in January as students prepare for a large exam)
- **Ken O'Connor - 15 Grading Fixes**
- Fix #12 – do not use zeroes (INC instead)
- Fix #14 – do not summarize evidence collected over time – emphasize more recent achievement.
- Fix #15 – do not leave students out of the assessment process – they can play a role in the assessment and grading process.
- **Sandra Herbst and Anne Davies – Fresh Look at Grading in High Schools**
- Chapter 3 – After the Learning
- Revisit for the last time the learning outcomes and students find evidence or ask to be re-assessed based on new work. Teachers can make professional judgements based on products but also observation and conversations.
- **EL Sept 2020 – Grade Expectations – Taking the stress out of grading (Joe Feldman)** - Re-takes are more than a second chance. Many grading practices do not allow for mistakes even though we are trying to instill a growth mindset. To allow students to set themselves a new goal after a

	<p>bad test allows them to see success and build a belief that they can do better!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grading during a Pandemic (Joe Feldman and Douglas Reeves) - “Need to be more expansive about when and where students demonstrate what they know” – Joe Feldman, - “retakes give students hope that they can succeed even if they start further behind” – Joe Feldman - “Success in school should not depend on supports at home but rather on opportunities provided at school” – Douglas Reeves - “It means discarding the practice of averaging the students grades from the whole semester...and identifying a paper, project or lab that they can make up” Douglas Reeves - Zoe Watson is sending out visitors to each school to find out how we are doing with online schooling? Do you, as parents, have concerns? Liz Tait: paperless approach: it is difficult when students do not have access to textbooks at home. Also, the amount of time they are on the computer seem to be too much. Maybe send home a paper copy instead of posting an online version? Kevin: I feel like students are not being challenged by being home alone as they would if they were around their peers. 	
5	<p><u>Once Around the Table-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JoAnne: Are other provinces trimming the curriculum? - Sam: vote on PSSC budget: consider equipment live streaming sporting events 	

	<p>- Craig: Were you able to get in contact with Estey's? Christina: Yes, but SRC already met with another company for school clothing.</p>	
6	Next scheduled meeting date: TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Action:</u>
7	Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm