

**SCHOOL NAME: Nackawic High School**

**Parent School Support Committee Minutes**

**Date: Nov 22, 2021 Time: 7pm**

**Location: Virtual / Teams**

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| **PSSC Members Present:**  Jeanette Garland, Chairperson  Marla Calder  Rob Simpson  Andrea Hull  Anna MacFarlane, Secretary  Nick Graham  Stacey Clark  Kelly Dixon  Andrea Dore  Andrea Hull | **PSSC Members, Regrets:**  Shauna Brewer | **School/DEC Representation Present:**  Sean Newlands, Principal  Andrea Cronkhite, Teacher Rep.  Charisma Farrell, Student Rep.  **School/DEC Representation**  **Present:**  Tanya Cloutier |

**Call to Order: 7:01pm**

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Moved by Stacey, seconded by Kelly.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Moved by Marla, seconded by Nick.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

A reminder to all PSSC members to hand in the PSSC Member Declaration form to Sean Newlands.

**Introduction DEC Member**

Jeanette introduced the newly elected DEC Member for our region, Tanya Cloutier, from Canterbury, attending the meeting.

**New Business:**

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

25 students (out of 270) were represented in virtual or phone meetings with teachers. Sean commented that since Covid-19, numbers have been low, and with access to the school Portal parents appear to be more aware of their student’s marks and progress on an on-going basis.

**Return to School Reflection**

Sean reported that while the brief break away from attending school (due to Covid-19 school closures) may have served students well, there are currently high levels of stress and anxiety experienced by both students and teachers/staff. Efforts are being made to provide support, such as the district providing youth counsellors 3 days/week, sessions are being held themed “resilience in students”, and group sessions with girls in grad 11/12 have been carried out dealing with anxiety and depression, to name a few. Discussion followed regarding what additional resources could be utilized to deal with increase of violent incidents in the school. Sean agreed to inquire about how the recent local Neighborhood Watch team (and social workers) may be able to assist in student support and/or small group sessions. Charisma added that studying from home does generally give students a break, but is actually experienced as more stressful for some students, and that most are happy to be back into the in-person school routine.

**Extracurricular Update**

Sean reported that the NHS Boys Golf team won the Provincial A Banner, and that boys and girls soccer is just ending their season. Unfortunately, the NHS hockey team has folded this year, due to low number of players attending tryouts. The boys’ and girls’ basketball teams are up and running. As for spectators at basketball games, the school has developed a plan based on the district’s Covid-19 mandates, where the home team is allowed 36, and the guest team is allowed 24), seated in family bubbles, 6ft. apart.

Other extracurricular groups are; Reach for the Top (hopefully in January), Impact, Leadership, Drama, Archery (starting soon), Math League, GSA, Grad Class/Prom/Safe Grad/Bacc. Service, Yearbook, Positive Action Cmte..

Kelly added that her daughter Jessica is involved in creating a new school club/committee aimed at students that do not have a lot of friends/connections; a network of students on the look out for those that need a check-in of sorts, or someone to talk to.

**School Raised Funds Report**

One fundraiser took place in October; the Grad Class’s annual Bottle Drive ($1674.35). Sean shared the various current budget lines (athletic teams, school groups, classes, etc.) from the NHS financial report. He added that the breakfast program is supported by President Choice grants, local area food banks, and various local group donations and individual donations. Also, the district has come through with additional funding for our shop/welding program, which is greatly appreciated.

**International Students**

NHS currently has 6 international students from Germany (two), France, Japan, China, and Turkey. We also have a new student from China who recently moved to Millville with their family. 2 additional families have shown interest in hosting students. Sean added that this program provides wonderful diversity to our NHS school community.

**New Courses Second Semester**

Due to staff changes, the new elective course, “Housing Design”, has been replaced by “Business Organization and Management” and “Sociology 20”.

**Essential Skills Graduation Pathway**

“Essential Skills” Graduation Pathway is relatively new program for grade 10/11 students to take part. It focuses on workplace skills, providing job-shadowing and other skill building activities, and offers either a university track or workplace track. The program can accept 8 students, chosen through an application process.

**School Plan Update**

Sean reported that the school plan goals have remained pretty much the same as last year. Some initiatives are;

* Nighthawks SOAR matrix focus (succeed/organized/attitude/respect),
* A new award called SOAR Nighthawk of the Month.
* Trick or Canning at Halloween
* Every Child Matters
* Daily Social Media positive messaging (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter)
* New art gallery in the Tech Wing
* Murals painted at walls in school
* Introducing and Celebrating teams and clubs
* Ms. Fitton organized a clean up at the mall (community service session) to reverse the perception the “all kids are all bad”

To promote resiliency, the school is carrying out some targeted initiatives; On January 14, there will be a presentation by Jason Elliott called Get Real, dealing with inclusion and belonging in school student groups. Also, group sessions are being held with girls in grades 11/12 focusing on conversations around stress, communicating, balancing schoolwork/home/sports/work, finding support.

In December, the NBED will carry out the NB Student Survey on Education and Wellness for all students to take part in.

**Important Dates**

Nov 29 – Christmas Tree Decoration Initiative for each school wing/area

Dec 10 – the above will be judged by each homeroom

Dec 3 – PD day; no school for students

Dec 21 – Christmas Brunch grade 9/10

Dec 22 – Christmas Brunch grade 11/12

Dec 23 – Last day of school

Jan 10 – Students are back in school

Jan 14 – Get Real presentation (virtual)

Jan 17 – PSSC meeting

Jan 24-28 – Exams Semester One

Jan 31 - Turnaround date; no school for students

Feb 1 – Turnaround date; no school for students

**Opening to the floor**

Marla inquired whether there had been any feedback collected from the recent new initiative with Social Media Postings. Sean will find out.

Tanya Cloutier informed the committee about “Cinderella’s Closet”, a non-profit organization out of Canterbury collecting prom dresses/tuxedos/accessories to be shared with students that are not financially able to purchase these items in preparation for prom. Those interested in donating can contact Tanya directly.

**Date of Next Meeting: January 17, 2022, at 7pm.**

**Adjournment: At 8:32pm**

Jeanette Garland January 13th, 2022

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**President Date**

*Anna MacFarlane November 24, 2021*

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**Secretary Date**