

**Morinville Community High School Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

**School Administrative Team Report**

*Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*

**Harold R. McAlindon**

Welcome to the April 2015 School Council meeting, which is the second last meeting of the 2014-2015 school year. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend the next meeting so that together we can learn and grow as a school and a community. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with you this year to make a positive difference in the lives of students, parents, community and staff. Our hope is that we will discuss and revisit various topics throughout the terms as this document serves only as a starting point for discussion and action. As such, this report serves as a very brief introduction to a number of topical areas that will be examined in substantial depth over the course of this school year and the next.

If you have any questions/feedback/suggestions/advice, please contact us prior to the May meeting or bring your discussion item to the May meeting.

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Thank you for being able to make the time to be here with all of us this evening. Please encourage friends and neighbors to attend and participate in School Council so that together we can learn and grow as a community.

MCHS is an excellent school and we are committed to continue to improve. The following is a brief historical update of what has taken place to this time. It is our custom at each School Council Meeting to share a report in this type of format for your review and consideration. Our hope is that we will discuss and revisit various topics throughout the term as this document serves only as a starting point for discussion and action. This report serves only as a very brief introduction to a number of topical areas that will be examined in greater depth over the course of this school year.

### **Spring Community Conversation - Wednesday, May 6, 2015 (Handout)**

GSACRD is hosting a Community Conversation to provide input and assistance into the development of the goals to be included in upcoming district plans. This conversation will be based upon the following question:

*How can we prepare students to maximize the benefits of digital literacy so that they can make wise and healthy decisions with their online and social media activities?*

Registration is by Friday, May 1. Should you have any questions, please contact Pat at 780-459-7711 Ext. 112.

### **Provincial Budget Update and the Impact on GSACRD (Handout)**

There have been many articles in the media regarding the provincial budget and the impact on education in Alberta. All school districts are in the exact same situation and each one must adjust operations to deal with the reality. The included GSACRD document details the impact upon our district in detail.

We are currently working with DO to prepare MCHS for 2015-2016, in light of the constraints that each school in Alberta is facing.

### **Legal Open House**

MCHS did participate in the Legal School Open House on April 16, as we did at Notre Dame and GHP. This is part of emphasizing the K-12 journey with GSACRD in Legal and Morinville.

### **Honors/Merit Breakfast**

Each semester we host a breakfast for students who have scored at the Merit or Honors level at the mid-point in that semester. In semester 1 this breakfast was sponsored by Concordia University College and in semester 2 is sponsored by NorQuest College.

This breakfast is April 22 and pancakes, sausages and fruit will be prepared and served by MCHS faculty. NorQuest will have two representatives here to talk with students during the breakfast, highlighting the different programs and opportunities that are available through that post-secondary.

NorQuest is providing us with \$350 to cover the cost of the breakfast, as Concordia had done as well.

### **GSACRD Tablet Purchase Plan**

The district is moving ahead with a purchase plan for parents, permitting families to obtain tablets for their child. Plans would be individual to parents and depend upon the number of payments that they feel is most reasonable. Right now we are in the early stages in the development of this plan and additional information will be shared once we know more.

Students who have their own tablets for use at school would have enhanced learning experiences that would benefit their overall development, by further emphasizing the student-centered learning approach.

### **Dual Credit Update**

Our partnership with NorQuest has been positive and we are looking to build upon it for the coming year. We are revising our timetable to try and have as many English 30-1 students complete that course in semester 1, which would then make them eligible to register for ENGL 1011 in semester 2, earning 3 regular university credits along with 5 high school credits for the same course.

So far the feedback from the NorQuest instructor has been very positive and our students have been performing well. This is a regular university course, with regular university curriculum and expectations.

### **PACK Day Update**

In our April 17 PACK Day we had 92 individual sessions and some carried over into multiple time slots. There were a number of unique opportunities for students, with many offering new topics, along with current labs and remedial learning.

PACK Day has evolved and this was our 7<sup>th</sup> of 8 this year. With each one we are learning how to better offer and schedule different sessions, though we do have ‘bugs’ that we do need to address. We know that there will be sessions that students will be interested in, that are offered at the same time, forcing them to make decisions on what to sign-up for. This is a good situation to be in...meaning that there is choice.

There will be instances in which students may be red-doored, meaning that there is a particular session in which they must attend. We know that these red door sessions are in place due to circumstances...(1) required learning in a particular class (i.e. labs), (2) requirements to catch-up

on missed assignments or tests in particular courses, or (3) special opportunities for learning since there is a outside provider coming in for a course or program.

In all of these instances there are good reasons why a student needs to be in a specific session. With red door sessions we, as yet, do not have a hard and fast rule/policy governing it, but rely upon individual decisions in each situation. We must try to remain as objective as possible in each scenario and go from there.

We know that our next PACK Day will be different from the others and that is a good thing. We are learning each time and will continue to do so. At the end of this year we will look back on what it is that we have done with PACK Day and see how we can improve upon it for the 2015-2016 year. As mentioned, each edition of it this year has been different from previous ones...it has been a work in progress and will continue to remain so.

#### **MCHS School Discipline Report -**

For the Period of August 31, 2011 to April 13, 2012 there were 62 suspensions earned by students.

For the period of August 31, 2012 to April 15, 2013 there were 61 suspensions earned by students.

For the period of August 31, 2013 to April 14, 2014 there were 32 suspensions earned by students.

For the period of August 31, 2014 to April 21, 2015 there were 24 suspensions earned by 19 students.