

Morinville Community High School Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2016

School Administrative Team Report

Note that trustworthiness goes beyond integrity to include real competence as well. You have to be true to your word, but also very good at what you do.

Michael Fullan

Welcome to the second School Council Meeting of 2016. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend these meetings so that together we can learn and grow as a community. We look forward to the opportunity 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.

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

NorQuest ENGL 1011 Dual Credit Course Update

We have 23 students currently registered and participating in this course. As a comparison, SACHS has 12 students completing a business course with MacEwan that we both had offered 3 years ago.

Facilities Update

Flooring work is scheduled to take place in our Graphics Lab over spring break with the installation of new carpeting.

Parent Volunteers – Thank You!

MCHS parents and guardians need to become a much bigger part of our school culture. With your enthusiasm and energy we can do so much. The opportunities for involvement are endless and the abilities, knowledge, expertise and time that volunteers provide can only enhance the opportunities for our youth.

General Newsletters – Ideas and Suggestions

We look forward to your comments and suggestions regarding possible information items and articles for the MCHS General Newsletters. Our intent is to inform our stakeholders and strengthen community relationships. We also welcome information items from community services agencies in the newsletter as a further way to communicate in the greater community. School Council suggestions are welcome as we work to foster open communications.

Semester 2 Start-Up

The textbook distribution for semester 2 that happened on January 28 went well with approximately 88% of the students picking up their new texts after having returned all semester 1 books. This number is greater than that of last year. This process is less disruptive and means that students have the correct texts for the first day of class.

Open House - March 10

We will be hosting this event in the same format that was undertaken for the last two years, with both what we offer as part of an open house and who we target to invite to attend. Currently we have a number of post-secondary institutions that have confirmed their participation:

- Athabasca University
- MacEwan University
- NorQuest College
- CDI College

- Marvel College
- Pixel Blue Academy
- NAIT

We also have a number of other organizations who will be present:

- Morinville Fire Department
- Alberta Learning Clicks
- Canadian Armed Forces
- RCMP
- Careers: Next Generation

There will also be displays from Notre Dame, Legal School and GH Primeau emphasizing that the K to 12 journey.

This format is intended to increase the options for our students who are looking to work for the summer, or full-time upon graduation, possible careers, along with the information needed to move onto post-secondary.

School Fees for 2016/2017 (This item for School Council Approval)

Fees in the district and through the school have been revised for the coming year. As a comparison information is provided for the current year with any changes for 2016/2017 identified.

| Compulsory Fees 2015/2016 | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 | Grade 12 |
| Learning Resources Fee (textbooks) | \$70 | \$100 | \$100 | \$100 |
| Learning Support Resources | \$30 | \$30 | \$30 | \$30 |
| Technology Support Fee | \$65 | \$65 | \$65 | \$65 |
| Student Union Fee | \$26 | \$26 | \$26 | \$26 |
| PE 10 Course Fee | | \$11 | | |
| Graduation Fee (gown rental, cap/tassel/diploma cover/certificate) | | | | \$62 |
| Locker | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Compulsory Fee | \$191 | \$232 | \$221 | \$283 |

| Compulsory Fees 2016/2017 | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 | Grade 12 |
| Learning Support Resources | \$30 | \$30 | \$30 | \$30 |
| Technology Support Fee | \$65 | \$65 | \$65 | \$65 |
| Student Union Fee | \$26 | \$26 | \$26 | \$26 |
| PE 10 Course Fee | | \$11 | | |
| Graduation Fee (gown rental, cap/tassel/diploma cover/certificate) | | | | \$62 |
| Locker | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Compulsory Fee | \$121 | \$132 | \$121 | \$183 |

Optional Fees

Yearbook \$46 (**\$35 for 2016/2017**)

Weight Room \$41

High School Elective Fees:

Band (instrument rental deposit \$100 if needed, plus \$65 cleaning and maintenance fee, uniform fee of \$25 for a black, long sleeved shirt, optional tie fee of \$17 all payable to the Morinville

Band Parents Association)

Art \$26

Construction \$128 (**\$130 for 2016/2017**)

Cosmetology Introductory \$75

Cosmetology Intermediate \$140

Cosmetology Advanced \$21 (**\$30 for 2016/2017**)

Food Studies \$130

Media Design 1 \$16

PE 20/30 \$62

Sports Medicine \$41

Urban Agriculture \$103 (**\$125 for 2016/2017**)

Sport Teams

Jr. Teams (b'ball and v'ball) \$130 (**\$150 for 2016/2017**)

Sr. Teams (b'ball and v'ball) \$230 (**\$240 for 2016/2017**)

Junior Varsity (v'ball) \$175

Badminton \$31

Curling \$46

Cheer Team \$230

MCHS School Discipline Report -

For the Period of August 31, 2011 to February 10, 2012 there were 51 suspensions earned by students.

For the period of August 31, 2012 to February 19, 2013 there were 45 suspensions earned by students.

For the period of August 31, 2013 to February 18, 2014 there were 23 suspensions earned by 19 students.

For the period of August 31, 2014 to February 17, 2015 there were 20 suspensions earned by 16 students.

For the period of August 31, 2015 to February 16, 2016 there were 20 suspensions earned by 16 students.

MCHS Flex Initiative Update (originally written and sent to District Office on January 25, 2016) *(Items in italics have be changed since this script was presented to District Office)*

At the November 25, 2015 SRR concerns were voiced regarding a decline in the October 2015 Accountability Pillar Results in the Standard of Excellence for PATs, Diplomas and the 4+ participation rate for writing diploma exams at MCHS. Discussion at the SRR centered upon the utilization of PACK Day and the number of ‘contact points’ students may have available to access teachers in 1 on 1 opportunities using this model, compared to a daily flex block.

At this meeting it was strongly suggested that MCHS examine the implementation of a flex block, possibly for semester 2 but definitely for the 2016/2017 year if the Accountability Pillar Results did not improve. In the 8 PACK Days in 2014/2015 and the 4 so far in 2015/2016, the average student attendance has been 80.0%, with the corresponding student engagement level being high.

Prior to the SRR meeting, MCHS had already implemented different strategies in an attempt to improve upon the 2014/2015 results. These changes were discussed and put into place for the 2015/2016 year in the spring of 2015. These included:

- Revised teacher course assignments
- A structure change for teachers of core Grade 9 courses. This reduced the number of teachers in a core, allowing them to further specialize in an area and as well get to know more Grade 9 students. As an example, we used to have 4 teachers for Science 9 and now we have 2 teachers
 - Anecdotal reporting is positive and mid-term achievement marks are strong
- Analysis of the Program of Studies outcomes for LA 9

Since the November 25 SRR, we have undertaken a number of steps needed to address the possible development of a flex block. These steps have included:

- Walk through the Hawk Block at SACHS on December 1 in which we spoke with a number of faculty members and were able to visually see the engagement level of the students present
- Significant time spent at the December 11 Faculty Meeting discussing what a flex block might be and how it could be structured
- Detailed conversations with a number of school administrators regarding how their schools structure flex time and insight into student engagement:
 - Susan Coates - SACHS
 - David Jones – Harry Ainlay High School
 - Duane Hagen – St. Peter the Apostle High School
 - Tom Waylenko – Louis St. Laurent High School
 - Chris Shaw – Spruce Grove Composite High School
 - John Fiacco – Archbishop MacDonald High School
 - Max Chorney – Bellerose Composite High School
- A detailed conversation with a principal regarding why their high school decided to not participate in this provincial high school flex initiative:
 - Duncan Knoll – Paul Kane High School
- We have scheduled further discussions with school administrators and walk throughs during flex blocks at different high schools:
 - Harry Ainlay – February 11 (*rescheduled for February 17*)
 - St. Peter the Apostle – February 23 (*rescheduled for March 1*)
 - *Eastglen High School – March 21*
 - *Archbishop O’Leary High School – March 21*
 - *Archbishop MacDonald High School – March 21*
- Flex time was the major discussion item at the January 19 School Council Meeting and feedback was received from parents at that time
- Major discussion item on the agenda for faculty meetings scheduled for January 27 and 29
- Multiple discussions have taken place with the PowerSchool personnel at Edmonton Catholic

In the immediate future, discussions with our students is scheduled to begin to gather their feedback on a fundamental shift in programming, much like we undertook in 2013/2014 prior to developing the PACK Day model.

Challenges To Be Addressed

There are a number of different items that we do need to work through. The creation of a flex block model is a significant programming change that does require careful planning if it is to be successfully initiated. In order for MCHS to move ahead with the transition to a flex block system, we must provide due diligence to several areas. These include:

- Specific discussions with MCHS students to gather their feedback. In 2013/2014 prior to the development of the PACK Day model, we met with each individual class to gather their input on flex, meeting with all 600 students by individual class. Three months later, we then went back and again met with all 600 students by individual class to gather their feedback on the proposed PACK Day model. The idea for the PACK Day model came from a suggestion presented individually by a student in Grade 9, one in Grade 11 and a faculty member. We need to be able to honor the voice of our students with a transition to a new flex model
- Continue specific discussions with all faculty to gather their voice and allow transition to a different model. Particular attention would have to be spent with the development of a Teacher Advisor Group (TAG), as SACHS has, along with what a flex block actually does each day, in relation to student achievement
- Continue specific discussions with our School Council as these parents do influence stakeholders in our community
- Communicate a change to all our stakeholders. MCHS is known for PACK Day and we must clearly communicate the change and reasons for the change to the community. Our original transition to the PACK Day model included the presentation of this concept at the January 16, 2014 Community Conversation. There has been significant buy-in to our current model and this change does need to be communicated to all
- The creation of a new timetable skeleton on PowerSchool through Edmonton Catholic. The IT personnel have stated the challenges that they face implementing a change mid-year

For MCHS this last item is a critical area. Currently PACK Day works within the existing regular Friday schedule as all the PACK sessions are scheduled within that framework. For

PACK Day, no changes to the PowerSchool schedule were required. PowerSchool itself is used to permit faculty to schedule sessions, students to select sessions and for attendance to be tracked.

Our current conversations with Edmonton Catholic regarding changes to the schedule through PowerSchool indicate that changes mid-year are not possible due to the significant logistical challenges that they would face.

Currently, our timetable through PowerSchool is formatted in the following manner:

| Grade 9 | | | | High School | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Monday-Thursday | | Friday | | Monday-Thursday | | Friday | |
| Block | Time | Block | Time | Block | Time | Block | Time |
| 1 | 8:05-8:47 | 1 | 8:05-8:40 | 1 | 8:05-9:31 | 1 | 8:05-9:16 |
| 2 | 8:49-9:31 | 2 | 8:41-9:16 | | | | |
| 3 | 9:38-10:20 | 3 | 9:20-9:55 | 2 | 9:38-11:04 | 2 | 9:20-9:55 |
| 4 | 10:22-11:04 | 4 | 9:56-10:31 | | | | |
| Lunch 11:04-11:44 | | 5 | 10:35-11:10 | Lunch 11:04-11:44 | | 3 | 10:35-11:46 |
| 5 | 11:49-12:31 | 6 | 11:11-11:46 | 3 | 11:49-1:15 | Lunch 11:46-12:25 | |
| 6 | 12:33-1:15 | Lunch 11:46-12:25 | | | | | |
| 7 | 1:22-2:04 | 7 | 12:30-1:05 | 4 | 1:22-2:48 | 4 | 12:30-1:40 |
| 8 | 2:06-2:48 | 8 | 1:06-1:40 | | | | |

The challenge that develops with scheduling a flex block similar to that of what SACHS has, as an example, specifically relates to Grade 9 students. They currently have 44 minute blocks Monday to Thursday and 35 minutes on Friday and if we were to transition to a flex block style similar to SACHS, that would require the creation of a 40 minute flex block Monday to Thursday and a 25 minute TAG block on Friday.

This would result in the Grade 9 blocks being reduced to 37 minutes Monday to Thursday and 32 minutes on Friday. This would have a significant impact upon all classes, particularly the options of Cosmetology, Art, Fit for Life, Outdoor Education and CTS. These courses require that students either get changed into gym strip at the start and end of each class, or that they have hands-on work that must be set-up and then put away and cleaned at the end. PE would also be impacted, however this is not an option course. A total of 37 and 32 minutes are simply not effective for student learning and achievement.

To remedy this, we would have to move to a Day 1 and Day 2 format for our Grade 9 students. This would increase the length of each block to something that was usable for each course, both core and option. Our high school students would not necessarily be impacted by a Day 1/Day 2 schedule, however their Monday to Thursday block times would be reduced from 86 minutes to 76 and 75 minutes (to allow for transition time from flex block to the regular classroom) and Friday from 71 minutes to 66 and 65 minutes.

The possible revised schedule would potentially be as follows, following the format that SACHS has, as the example:

| Grade 9 Day 1/Day 2 | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Monday to Thursday | | Friday | |
| Block | Time | Block | Time |
| 1 | 8:05- 9:20 | 1 | 8:05-9:10 |
| Flex | 9:25-10:05 | TAG | 9:14-9:29 |
| 2 | 10:11-11:27 | 2 | 9:33-10:38 |
| Lunch | 11:27-12:07 | 3 | 10:42-11:48 |
| 3 | 12:12-1:27 | Lunch | 11:48-12:29 |
| 4 | 1:35-2:48 | 4 | 12:34-1:40 |

The high school schedule would mirror the Grade 9 schedule, however high school students would not use the Day 1/Day 2 format. For the 9's this would mean that all core and option classes would be every two days, instead of every day as they currently are.

Additional Considerations

At the November 25, 2015 SRR it was stated that we needed to examine our flex model due to the perceived lack of 'contact points' that teachers could potentially have with motivated students using a daily flex block. We have to consider the possibility that a percentage of students who currently are engaged in PACK Day will not be engaged daily using a flex block. A concern is that we will lose students during a flex block and that they will not engage with teachers during a flex block at all, potentially impacting their overall achievement since the number of instructional minutes each block has been reduced for a flex block and TAG.

This discussion does present a series of different options that may be possible for consideration at MCHS:

1. Adoption of a flex block and TAG model similar to that at SACHS
2. Creation of a hybrid flex/TAG/PACK Day model

3. Retention of the current PACK Day model
4. A reversion back to a regular non-flex model

The Accountability Pillar Results for MCHS were strong and improving prior to the adoption of flex and PACK Day. The October 2014 results were particularly strong. We are confident that our results in May 2016 will improve from the October 2015 survey, due to a number of different factors.

The questions that we need to address are...(1) What is the best flex model for MCHS?, (2) Is it appropriate for MCHS to continue on with flex, considering the learning time, achievement levels and opportunities for students? And, (3) If the MCHS AP Results improve, does this impact the discussion? (the January Diploma Exam Results will be released by Alberta Education in mid-February).