

**Morinville Community High School Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 19, 2016**

**School Administrative Team Report**

*The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.*

**H. Jackson Brown, Jr.**

Welcome to the April 2016 School Council meeting, which is the second last meeting of the 2015-2016 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, setting us up for the coming year.

If you have any questions/feedback/suggestions/advice, please contact us prior to the May meeting or bring your discussion item to the May 17, 2016 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.

**Provincial Budget Update and the Impact on GSACRD**

There have been many articles in the media regarding the provincial budget that was released on April 14 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.

We are currently working with DO to prepare MCHS for 2016-2017, in light of the constraints that each school in Alberta is facing.

### **Legal Open House**

MCHS participated in the Legal School Open House on April 14, 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.

This breakfast is April 27 and pancakes, sausages and fruit will be prepared and served by MCHS faculty. NorQuest will have representatives here to talk with students during the breakfast, highlighting the different programs and opportunities that are available through that post-secondary.

### **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 and 30-2 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.

### **Grad Update**

The ticket prices for Grad have been subject to discussion and a survey that was sent out to Grade 12 parents in mid-March, asking for feedback on ticket price options. We have tried to keep prices as low as possible, however cost increases at the venue in different areas (i.e. food, sub-contractors, venue employee costs, etc.) have increased the prices by \$5 from last year's ticket costs.

This year the tickets will be:

- Ceremony only - \$25

- Banquet - \$93

Ticket prices have to cover the cost of a number of different items, which include:

- Venue hall rental
- Gown room for students
- Venue insurance and liability
- Meal (food selection chosen by the Student Grad Committee)
- Security (venue contractual requirement)
- Emergency medical staff (venue contractual requirement)
- Audio visual service
- Sound system (separate from AV)
- DJ for the dance
- Decorations

Prices are reflective of a break-even situation for us and we try to keep all costs to the minimum. Many items are produced/created by Grade 12 students and faculty (i.e. table decorations) and a good portion of the set-up of the facility is done by faculty and Grade 10 and 11 students the day of Grad. With the number of Grads and guests, the overall cost approaches \$100,000.

In the last few years we have become increasingly concerned about the costs and what we can do about them. Three years ago we looked to find alternatives, talking with other schools to ask what they do and with other venues.

MCHS will average approximately 125 grads and 1100+ guests for the ceremony and 900 for the banquet. There are very few facilities in the region that can accommodate this number of participants, only Northlands Expo and the Shaw.

In our search, this is what we discovered:

- The Morinville Community Cultural Centre – holds approximately 300 people for banquets, which would mean the Grad, 1 escort and school faculty only. It holds a maximum of 660 people in the bleachers and chairs, which then do not provide any space for tables for the banquet.
- The Spirit Centre in Westlock – limit to the number of guests, all tables, chairs, lines, tableware would have to be rented and brought in and the caterer has to bring in a portable kitchen. The parents organize the entire banquet.

- The Shaw – is large enough to hold everything, however the costs would not necessarily be any different from Northlands.
- The ticket prices that we have to charge are inline with the costs that all other high schools have as well. Small differences in the ticket prices from school-to-school are evident, along with differences in the Grad Fees charged each student at the start of the school year.
- Some schools have fund-raisers to try and reduce costs for students.

<b>School</b>	<b>Grad Fee</b>	<b>Banquet Ticket</b>	<b>Ceremony Only Ticket</b>
<b>MCHS</b>	\$62	\$93	\$25
<b>Paul Kane</b>	\$105	\$85	N/A
<b>Bellerose</b>	\$105	\$90	N/A
<b>SACHS</b>	\$70	\$90	N/A
<b>ESSMY</b>	\$200	\$65*	N/A
<b>Ross Sheppard</b>	\$90 plus \$5 per invited guest, per student	\$90	N/A
<b>Spruce Grove</b>	\$60	\$85	\$25
<b>Louis St. Laurent</b>	\$70	\$90	N/A
<b>Sturgeon Comp</b>	\$140	\$75	N/A
<b>Harry Ainlay</b>	unknown	\$90	N/A

**\*ESSMY has traditionally held their Grad at Northlands Expo and in 2015 they moved to the Italian Cultural Centre. They were able to switch to a much smaller venue as they have a total of approximately 20 grads.**

For our Grad Banquet, the student committee has again chosen the most reasonably priced meal options. However, even going with the best-priced items still results in a cost of \$61 for the meal alone, out of the total ticket price of \$93 (plus a 4.5% online fee per ticket to for use of a third party provider). With this reality, one of the only ways to reduce the overall cost might be to investigate not having a banquet dinner. If we were to move Grad to a venue such as the Winspear, we could host a formal event without a banquet, which would allow families to make alternative arrangements for meals and possibly have more relatives/friends attend who may not otherwise be able to.

We need to be open to suggestions to reduce overall costs to families.

### **PACK Day Update**

Our next PACK Day is on May 6 and this one will be different from the others, due to the large number of students who will be away. We have a few big field trips going on and approximately 200 students will be out of the building at the time.

- Band trip to Vancouver – May 3 to 7 with 55 students
- Grade 9 field trip to Telus World of Science – 125 students
- Grade 9 to 12 Religion Retreat – May 5 and 6 with approximately 25 students

This has an impact upon the number of sessions that are created for PACK Day and the type that are offered. With the large number of students on field trips, there are also a number of faculty members accompanying them.

### **Flex Programming**

We are continuing to look at what other schools offer and how they structure flex. We need to continually look to see what we can do better, increasing efficiencies and offering more opportunities for students.

PACK Day has a number of advantages to it, however one of the significant challenges is the amount of work that goes into the development of each day. We have been in discussion with Eastglen High School, looking at their model, which does have some advantages that we need to learn from.

### **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.

For the period of August 31, 2015 to April 18, 2016 there were 24 suspensions earned by 20 students.