

Edith Cavell PSSC Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Location: Edith Cavell School

Called by: PSSC

1. Attendees

Donna Arsenault (Principal)	Norval McConnell (DEC Rep)	Aimee Lockie (Teacher Rep)
Chris Ryan (Chair)	Melanie Cassidy	Mandi Teagle
Jessica Colpitts	Sheila Johnston (Vice Principal)	

1. Election of Chair

- Chris Ryan graciously volunteered to resume his position as chair of the PSSC for the 2020-2021 school year and was elected. Melanie Cassidy agreed to continue to take the minutes.
- Donna Arsenault circulated necessary forms for the new members to sign.

2. Principal Report and General Discussion

- Donna provided an overview of some of the new safety measures and changes relating to COVID-19 as well as some of the challenges and benefits that have been noticed. She requested feedback from the parents on the Committee as to, from a parent perspective, how the children were adjusting to the new guidelines in place relating to COVID-19.
- Some of the new rules and/or guidelines discussed included: the staggered entry for students; the use of masks; and additional use of technology. The feedback from the parents on the committee was positive and the positive comments were echoed by the staff members of the committee. Numerous benefits were listed concerning the staggered entry including that it enabled the teachers to get to know and assess where children were performing from the beginning thereby given them a head start in identifying and being able to focus on needs from the beginning of the school year.



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- Staff reported that with the new schedule and guidelines that they are seeing less conflict than normal and the children have been very compliant with respect to following the safety measures.
- Some resources have been available to provide teachers and various teams with some time to work on a transition plan. It was recognized and acknowledged that these “new times” pose tremendous additional stress on teachers and staff. Their additional work, stresses and efforts are acknowledged and much appreciated.
- The school has been able to purchase 30 new iPads and cases as some of the previous equipment was too old to run the Microsoft Teams program.
- EC has developed various activities and school-wide projects in order to ensure that the students continue to feel part of the EC school community despite the COVID guidelines and class bubbles that are in place. These include: school wide BINGO; virtual assemblies; and school community art projects etc. New games have also been painted on the playground.
- Given that teachers are unable to meet in person with the parents, increased use of technology and phone calls has been used.
- TESS continues to operate at EC and there continues to be a great partnership between the two. Unfortunately, give that there is no contact between TESS students and EC students, the mutually beneficial joint projects that had developed have not been able to operate.

3. Additional items

- Aimee discussed the exciting new program “Girls Who Code” which is a National Program operated through DELL.
- Group meets on Thursday afternoons after school.
- EC applied and was the first school approved in Atlantic Canada. As part of the



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project, they are assigned a National Mentor and received 12 laptops. There are approximately 25 girls who are participating from grades 3-7 at all different skill levels. The students are very excited about the program and opportunity.

- DELL is providing t-shirts for the girls participating.
4. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 4:30. If people are unable to attend in person or if necessary, meetings can be held virtually or people can attend virtually. If anyone has any suggested agenda items, can email them to Donna or Chris.

Meeting Adjourned

