**PSSC MEETING AGENDA -January 28th,2020**

6:30 to 8 pm

**In Attendance**: Kim Marr, James Burkett, Alison Davidson, Pamela Smith, Shelley Stocker, Jennifer Drake, Tyla Finlay, Kevin Lawrence, Peter Walker, Michaela Walsh

**Regrets**: Debbie Warman, Julie Fairweather, Chris MacDonald, Andre Bornais, Tanya Jenkins, Brenda Mawhinney

Minutes:

* November Minutes were approved by Kevin and Jennifer
* This week’s agenda was approved by Alison and Jennifer.
* Parking lot issues- will table to next agenda since Brenda and Chris were not here to speak about it

**English Language Arts Update-RMS Teachers**: English teachers are using the resource called *Informal Reading Inventory (IRI)*. Data was presented. Grade 6 and 7 students’ data reveled that they need work on inferencing. Grade 8 students over think Literal questions and therefore need to revisit some lessons to assist with improving their scores.

English teachers and resource teachers will be using the Fountas and Pinnell kits to create small/directed groups for those reading significantly below grade level (within the range of R and S). Another resource being used is Newsela.

A teacher is trained in the Scottish Rite program to assist as well.

SELF (student folders) will continue to be used. Every Friday students will be journaling and conference with teachers to help prepare for the grade 9 interview style they will be exposed to in high school. This will help students gain more accountability in being able to defend their work for a mark. This helps empower students.

The month of March will be the start of a new writing program. Over a week they will rotate to meet each English teacher to learn about what style of writing the teacher will be exploring. Later they will brainstorm possible writing topics and pick the one that appeals to them the most. After they rotate through the teachers and understand the various genres/topics that will be offered, they will choose one to pursue. This will help individualize their writing and increase engagement. By grade 8 all students will have a SELF.

Rationale for this: The students who are currently using SELF have developed at excellent rates. It is also about teaching a student where they are at and recognizing their goals alongside of the teacher.

Jim Burkett and Joanne Jardine’s room has become one huge class. This has allowed for more collaboration and increased the books available to students. There are alternate seating arrangements in the class. Another advantage is being able to do large group activities and more opportunity for more peer conversations. There is a room available as a backup if they need smaller groups. The largest group in the room at one time is 47. This also allows for more co-teaching opportunities.

There is a lot of excitement about trying new innovative ways of teaching. The PSSC support this.

**Cell Phone Policy –Discussion:** A change will eventually take place. To make this change RMS will need to make it at the start of a school year. A survey has been done within school and in one case a student was disrupted 252 times in one day by their phone. Change will take place based on the data collected over various times. Next steps from the PSSC will be to help promote why a no cell phone policy would benefit the students and the learning environment. The PSSC will attempt to help spread the word of the research that is out there. The family of schools are working together to collaborate on ways to improve the data.

**Our School Data-Provide Data, Share Next Steps:** The data was on par with other Riverview schools. RHS, RES and RMS will all be working together about drug education, using the United Way and the Town of Riverview so we can work as a collective group. We are looking forward to seeing how the data will change next year.

RMS will be equipped with indoor cameras. More will be added in the next two years. There are already cameras outdoors.

Kerri Gaskin (therapist) will be coming in to speak to the students to help look at peer conflict vs. bullying.

At RHS students can report on-line incidents and RMS is looking at finding a way to do this as well. Currently RMS is looking at how to have resources to have a person follow up on any incidents if they were to be reported.

RMS will be educating parents on the definitions/terms of peer conflict, bullying, etc. with parent sessions.

Many school expectations are going to be tightened up and changes are expected to be seen in the data. RMS works closely with psychologists and Child and Youth to overcome problems that may arise as the school year continues (as it has always done).

Plans are in place to have parent meetings to address various topics (based on needs that are seen year to year). The vision is to be an open school, to work with parents and the community so all parties are sharing the role of supporting our students. It was recommended by our administration to complete the survey next year in the Spring rather than just before Christmas break.

This will be tabled for the next agenda so it can be discussed in more detail. Everyone will look it over and return with recommendations or questions.

**Update on the Ramp**: News from the Town- parking was changed because it is illegal to back out onto a street. The decision was made through discussions with engineers, ASD-E- district manager of facilities and the town. The reason for no handicap parking on the street was due to the fact that it is a street not a parking lot and therefore couldn’t be done.

**Capital List**: Handicap parking has been added in two locations and the entrance into the auditorium door was fixed to make a ramp.

Upgrade entrance steps to accommodate handicap is currently listed as a priority 2 on the district request list. PSSC should write a letter to the district expressing their concerns and question the legalities of why this hasn’t already been done. It was decided that Pamela will write a letter on our behalf. Brenda Mawhinney has taken it to the DEC.

Other things we know need to look in to, at some point, would be the washrooms and the fountains.

Tyla will go to the Riverview family of schools joint PSSC in Feb 11th and in March 24th.

Our next PSSC will be March 31 6:30-8:00

Meeting closed at 8:25.