

Sussex Elementary School
PSSC Meeting
October 22, 2012

Present:

Anne Webb-Thorne, Lenora Murray, Mary McNair, Lory-Ann MacAskill, Mr. Bobbitt
Melanie Patterson, Jodi Ravn, Natasha Munford, Stephen Campbell (DEC)

Regrets:

Kelly Kyle, Louize Malone, Tammy Scott-Wallace, Julie Corbett, April MacDonald
Carroll Green

The PSSC meeting started with introductions around the table. It was discussed that Kelly Kyle is our chairperson. Kelly does have a child in grade 5 and it will be her last year here at SES. That being said we are looking for a Vice Chair to mentor with Kelly. If anyone is interested please let Mr. Bobbitt know. The responsibility of the chair is to help plan the agenda with Mr. Bobbitt, help members reach consensus, call for votes when necessary. The chairperson communicates with Mr. Bobbitt.

The secretary continues to be Natasha Munford.

Mr. Bobbitt handed out the School Improvement Plan which was discussed at our last meeting where we communicated that we felt Math should be a top priority over literacy this year as we have done well in literacy in the past couple of years. Mr. Bobbitt stated that on the recent PD days that the focus of the teachers was to implement the new School Improvement plan. There is a new math mentor that comes to the school 3 days a week to work with K-5. Her name is Pat Millett. PLC's (Professional Learning Community) which is teachers in the same grade working together. The teachers focus in this working together but they do like to work with the other grades as they learn from each other and gather new concepts, plus ideas. Literacy is not being touched right now as it was looked at on a PD day in August when they focused on Comprehension English reading at different levels. Timeline so far for the School Improvement Plan is right on track. Most tests for literacy focus on multiple choice with one open ended question. There is a new name for PD (Professional Development Days), they are now Professional Learning Days for the teachers. The next one is November 29th and this meeting will focus on the comprehension literacy with teachers that marked the provincial assessments.

Raya Khedheri has started to implement learning skills of the month. Common sense stuff. There are posters throughout the school of these different learning initiatives.

PSSC roles and responsibilities were handed out to new members. The main responsibility of the PSSC is communication to parents. To make sure the school is using the school improvement plan, go over curriculum, provide feedback, and monitor what is happening within our school. Mr. Bobbitt is always very informative of what students are learning and presenting the PSSC with data pertaining to the school as a whole or

individual grade levels as well. You will not see a particular student or class singled out.

Mr. Bobbitt explained that the meeting agenda will generally be approving the minutes, old business, and any new business.

PSSC Budget will go towards the Synervoice again this year. It appears to be the best way to communicate to parents as a whole. It is PSSC mandate to communicate things well.

Mr. Stephen Campbell from DEC mentioned that we are very blessed to have the building that we currently have. It is in great shape compared to some of the district buildings that require a lot of maintenance.

Mary McNair spoke about the PSSC orientation meeting last Tuesday. She said it was very informative and some of the ideas that she came away with were the following.

Thank you to all volunteers in school, coaches etc., a BBQ of appreciation was done in one place, bullying seminars, TV's in lobby of schools to communicate with students and parents (in high schools). Mary said some schools have home and school and PSSC as one group.

Mr. Bobbitt said Sherry Fitch is coming in November with her book Toes in my Nose which has been newly illustrated.

We then had a discussion about volunteers and how parents are not really aware that they can volunteer. The other part of the discussion is that it would be nice to know what the teachers need as support at each grade level for volunteers. It was mentioned that volunteers can always be helpful in reading to kids, going over sight words, math activities, deliver hot lunch etc... Mr. Bobbitt is going to put out an email to all teachers to see what their needs are. Mr. Bobbitt also has a volunteer handbook that he did in the past that he would dig out and send to each member to look at. This handbook will identify the duties of each volunteer need or support.

Our next meeting dates are Tuesday, November 13th and Wednesday, December 12th. Both are 6:30pm start times.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.