PSSC Meeting February 13, 2024

Attendees: Jeff Johnston, Josh Cameron, Kelly Whalen, Misty Gervais, Beth Nixon (DEC)

What does the PSSC actually do?

Who should be apart of the group? Should be parents who have kids in both English and French

Bullying, uses of the gym, library, school improvement plan

We used to have a slip process for bullying that was a step-by-step process that the students knew they would have to go through.

We use an excel behaviour tracker that we talked about last time.

Guidance and BIM have just started a wellness team here at the school. Seems to be something that will work well for the school. It was set up so it wasn't a popularity contest for who was going to be selected from each class to be a part of the group.

If we don't have a group to represent PSSC in schools, government will have all the say in how schools will be run. PSSC report info to the DEC.

Since switching the lunch hour to half hour, we have cut out chances for students to be a part of activities. There was a lot of pointless time at the end of the school day, kids would miss the bus and fights would happen. Kids would get bored and find trouble. Our students ended up on the elementary bus run instead, which works better for us as a school. Our system switched during COVID and students now wait in their homeroom until their bus is called.

How long do our teachers have to be in the building? They should be staying until at least 30 minutes after the last bus leaves.

Our set up at lunch time is set up to keep kids in the cafeteria or outside because of duty reasons and we don't allow groups of kids to be free around the school without supervision, as it causes issues. Vandalism and vaping have been problems this year.

Certain classrooms do host activities or clubs throughout the week like GSA, Dungeons and Dragons, etc. We have now assigned slips that teachers are supposed to give to students so staff on duty know where they are heading. Grade 6 can go to their lockers to return their lunch bags and grab their jackets to go outside, but 7 and 8s are to stow their lunch bag in the cafeteria and bring their outdoor clothes with them to the cafeteria. We don't make all the kids go outside at lunch during winter months. They can attend a classroom with a slip or stay in the cafeteria. It is hard to make kids go outside when they are not dressed appropriately for it.

Defiance is an issue we have in classrooms that disrupts the learning environment. We used to have an alternative environment that students who couldn't behave in class would go to with the chance to work back into their regular class or, if they preferred that environment, they could stay in there.

Sometimes when things happen at school and a parent doesn't agree with how it was handled, it gets put on Facebook and other people who don't even know the circumstances will join the conversation,

making things worse. It's hard for schools to handle those situations because we are not allowed to respond on social platforms. Happens more often than schools want.

Too often, people "jump the gun" and don't get the info from the school and post what they think is the story on a social platform.

We need more parents to get involved so they actually know what is happening in their child's school and why certain decisions are being made.

Budget: we should be spending money on things to get parents involved and coming to the meetings. What are some things that we can spend it on? Should we have a guest speaker come in to talk to parents? Can we think about it and get back over e-mail? Family night at the end of the year and possibly try and get people on board to be involved in PSSC.