

Attending: Misty Gervais, Sarah Madden, Kelly Whalen, Judy Freeze, Heidi Chown, Jesse Lynn Jenkins, Jeff Johnston, Joshua Cameron

Chair: Sarah Madden

The PSSC has a budget of \$1200 to use. At our next meeting, there will be a focus on discussing what the budget can/will be used for.

Documents were handed out to everyone on the rules and guidelines of PSSC. One of our goals this year is to get PSSC going again so we can hopefully stay on to of our goals and help improve the school as a whole.

Josh was introduced (part way through the meeting) as the acting Vice Principal while Mrs. Baird is out.

While Jeff was looking for some documents, Misty Gervais explained how PSSC works at Apohaqui Elementary School and some of the things they are focusing on. Apohaqui has a focus around rewards for kids for performing appropriate behaviours, building/maintaining a sensory room, teaching students how to be better friends, and how to handle conflict.

School improvement plan (SIP); the last date on it is a while ago. It is a living and growing document, but it does need to be updated. The SIP helps the school focus its attention on certain programs and details to improve our school. The last few years, there has been a large focus around mental health and understandably so. At times, it has been difficult keeping our SIP in mind when trying to improve our school. A couple of questions were raised about our SIP;

- Are we taking enough action towards our SIP?
- Will measurable outcomes/actions be available?
- Is there something members of the group would like to see a focus on?

Our most current SIP has a focus on mental health, cross-curricular literacy, and students contributing to a positive learning environment. Something our school has been using for years is an Excel behaviour tracker. This tracker allows teachers to enter behaviours for administration to look at and it helps with identifying patterns and struggles that particular students are having. Something expressed by the table was that our students need to have clear expectations. Another focus at our next meeting will be looking at the SIP and helping it become more up to date as it is meant to be a living and growing document.

Jeff showed the school website and explained it has a common format for consistency for parents who have kids at different schools. It makes it easier for them to find info.

We talked about one of the main visions for the school is responsibility. At the beginning of each school year, we put the kids through “bootcamp.” It helps to set boundaries and expectations for the school year. The district has long promoted PBIS, and this is something we have long struggled with at SMS. Part of the thought process around this is we are rewarding kids for

things that they should already be doing. We spend a lot of time teaching behaviours, just not as much as they would do at the elementary level.

Literacy is important in all subjects. RTI is something that was done on a more regular basis at our school. It is when we assess kids to see what level they are at so we can remediate appropriately. Covid helped put a stop to that as we couldn't group kids together based on their needs. For numeracy, Sussex is below the average of the province, and this is also true for literacy.

Jeff explained that the school has several team meetings on a weekly basis for each grade level, for both French and English classes. When teams meet, they send their minutes to team members and administration for everyone to look over. The school also has PLC meetings (staff that teach the same subjects) and team leaders' meetings to discuss the direction of curriculum and to go over any team concerns.

Students have already completed one provincial wellness survey, and will be doing a wellness and education survey next week.

Jeff brought up bullying vs conflict when it comes to our students and there is a difficulty around understanding the difference between the two. A lot of times, students/parents feel nothing is being done when a lot of times the leg work that is being done is down below the waters.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2024. This will be our second meeting and the group needs to have at least four throughout the school year. We will invite the DEC chair, Beth Nixon, to the next meeting. Along with some of the other things that will be a focus in the meeting, a discussion around school supplies could be reviewed as well.