



Rothesay Elementary School
Parent School Support Committee 2016/2017
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 8th, 2016

Present: Amanda Higgins, Belinda Kumar, Jonathan Kierstead (Teacher Representative), Kim MacDonald, Misty Pilgrim, Nathalie McClune, Ocean Peters, Wendy Romeo, Linda Sherbo (DEC Member), Charlene Carroll (Principal), Heather Whittaker (RES Guidance)

Regrets: Stephen Smith, Kristie Leblanc, Linda Burns, Melissa Gillet

1. Call to Order
 - Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by Kim MacDonald, PSSC Chair.
2. Review of Last Month's Minutes
 - Minutes were accepted from the October 11, 2016 meeting.
3. WITS and the Community
 - Heather Whittaker – RES Guidance provided a brief presentation on the WITS Program.
 - More information can be found at WITSProgram.ca
 - In place for a couple of years at RES. WITS stands for: Walk Away, Ignore, Talk It Out and Seek Help.
 - How to deal with conflict or bullying.
 - Trying to get the community involved, including parents. Use your “WITS” not just at school but also at home and in the community.
 - Cst. Crystal Daley came to school for “swearing in” ceremony. Included role play, songs, and talked about their “WITS.”
 - Want to deliver message to parents and the community. Brochures about using WITS at home and resources. The website has a lot of information and there is some training you can take to learn about the program and how you can help your kids. If parents speak the message at home, kids will become more comfortable using it in and outside of school. A whole section just for families.
 - Applied for a grant to get resources for the WITS program. Would like parents to come into the classroom to talk about the program, books to read, etc.
 - Will be promoting in school, but helps if parents can also spread the word.
4. Budget Discussion – Synervoice Cost
 - Very expensive system to have. PSSC usually covers the costs as one of the mandates is communication. Approximately \$500. Motion to approve the funds for Synervoice.
 - \$1079 is PSSC budget.
 - Time start thinking about other areas we can spend on regarding communication. Request was made to Charlene to discuss with staff as well to see if they have any ideas. Examples such as a wellness night, fitness night, lego for literacy, new math night, etc. Suggestion was also made we could discuss something in conjunction with other PSSC committees. This can be discussed at next meeting.
 - Linda Sherbo discussed how four high schools have gotten together to develop a series. DEC is supportive of PSSC Chairs getting together and doing things in partnership.
 - Linda has a meeting tomorrow and she will ask Zoe for a list of all PSSC chairs.

5. School Profile

- Charlene shared school profile to provide history of the school and the programs that we offered
- Highlights:
 - 28.7 full time teachers, 2 educational support teachers, .6 guidance teacher, 8 teaching assistants, 3 FT custodians
 - To support new ISD model some resources from each school were put towards that.
 - Mission and Vision – on all newsletters, key words on wall when you come into the school
 - Maximum numbers of students and how many we have in each class, English / French split
 - Maximum hours of instruction is 5.5 hours per collective agreement.
 - Better Choices – where you reflect on your behavior, pink forms are sent home and Synervoice is sent home. K-2 and 3-5, during the lunch hour. Teacher works with the students – there is a discussion and reflection sheets.
 - Extra-Curricular Programs

6. November School Report

- Every month a report will be provided on what is going on that month
- Core Leadership group has met twice to develop goals for school improvement. Two lead teachers will be trained for new report cards and grading. They will communicate to other staff during PD Days.
- More information will be shared with everyone as information is available.
- Student led clubs started after Thanksgiving for 6 weeks for grades 3-5. Also open to Community Members if they are interested in sharing a talent. Another block starts in January.
- Reviewed important dates for this month.

7. New Business

- Linda had a discussion around what the DEC is working on. There are 7 City schools that are being reviewed. Round one is completed and round two is starting. Average age of schools is 57 years old. Intention is to build a new school, grades 6-8. Can contact the DEC member at any time should we want them to participate in something.

8. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Next Meeting: December 6, 2016 at 6:30pm