Rothesay Elementary School

Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) 2015/16

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, April 5, 2016

1. Meeting Called to order at 6:36 PM

Members Present: Charlene Carroll (Principal RES), Wendy Romeo (Co-Chairperson), Glenda Munro (community and parent representative), Amanda Higgins (Secretary), and Jonathon Kierstead (faculty representative).

Members Absent: Kim MacDonald (Co-Chairperson), Natalie McClune (parent representative), and Kristy Mark (parent representative)

All parents are invited to sit in any of the PSSC meetings to listen to the discussions regarding the School Plan. Only members of the PSSC are able to vote on issues. Individual issues should still be addressed by either the student’s teacher or the principal, not during these meetings.

2. Review of last Month’s Minutes

Minutes were accepted and will be posted on the website.

3. April School Report

After School Art program is being offered again for grades 3-5 each Thursday until May 19th. So far 15 students are enrolled in the program.

April 4th the DARE program starts for grade 5 students. This is being led by a community constable.

April 12th one class has been selected to participate in an international research project that the Department of Education is a part of. In this school it is Ms. Hughes grade 4 class. The class will undergo a day of testing following strict methodical guidelines in keeping with international research data collection. The test is called PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study).

April 18th any student in grade 3-5 who is interested can attend the TELUS Cup (Canadian Midget AAA national tournament. Irving Company will be providing bus transportation for the children to and from the school.

April 20-21 Mrs Carroll and School Admin assistant will be at district meetings learning about new student information database service called Powerschool. This will replace WinSchool that is currently being used to tract data such as behavioral issues, attendance, report cards, etc.

April 22 and 25 scheduled Staff Professional Learning days. No school for students. Teachers will be working on SIP for common mental math strategies and language across grade levels. This will be lead by a math mentor. Teachers (K-2) will work in one group and Teachers (3-5) will be in another group. Teachers will also learn about a new report card that will be used starting in September 2017. Education Assistants will attend presentations: Association of Community Living will present on Fostering Independence in Special Needs, an occupational therapist will present on common sensory materials and activities, and Ross Green (Behavioral Specialist) will present Lost in School resource exploration.

School Enrollment – 59 children enrolled for kindergarten for the fall, this gives 3 full classes. But 85 grade 5 students are leaving. A difference of 30 children which could result in one less homeroom for 2016-2017. This will cause reduction in all resources in the school. There will likely be more split classes offered next year, particularly in the French immersion program. There are approximately 40 students moving from grade 4 F1 to grade 5. And 36 FI students moving from grade 3 to grade 4.

4. School Improvement Plan Update (Goal #3)

SMART GOAL: By June 2018 80% of students will be able to self-assess their writing using co-constructed criteria.

Year one (this year) – exposure to co-constructing criteria tools and student self-assessment examples through book study and staff meeting sharing.

Teachers read book “Knowing What Counts. Self-Assessment and Goal Setting”. Proof that this was done was through minutes of meetings. It has not been discussed at all monthly meetings and not recorded in minutes by teachers are working towards this goal. There is evidence of teachers using strategies to help children to understand how to help and assess their own progress in school in grades Kindergarten,2, 3 and 4. Mrs. Carroll sees this when she visits the classrooms.

5. New Business

Buck Institute is a leader in problem based learning. They recognized and re-tweeted publicity about RES grade3/4 student lead project. Students identified a problem, brain stormed to come up with goals and strategies to address a problem. The end result was gift cards that could be given to new families to our community as a welcome gift from the students of RES. A huge kudos to the staff and students involved in this opportunity and to be recognized by the Buck Institute.

6. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting closed at 7:30 PM. The date of the next meeting is May 10, 2016 in the meeting room at RES.