

PSSC Meeting Minutes  
Blacks Harbour School

Date: June 5, 2023

Place: Conference Room

Time: 6:00 pm

### **Regular Meeting**

**Name of Chair:** Jennifer Harris

**PSSC Members in Attendance:** Tammy Surette (Principal), Alyssa Draper (Teacher), Cheri Vance (parent), Jennifer Harris (Parent/Chair), Shane Borthwick (DEC)

**PSSC Members Absent:** Ashton Koteff (Parent), Kalie Greer (Parent), Jaclyn Burns (Parent), Stefanie Boudreau (Parent)

**Visitors:** Rebecca Allen (Community Schools Coordinator)

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** Meeting called to order by Jennifer Harris, Chair.
2. **Agenda:** Motion to have the agenda approved as presented. Motioned by Jennifer Harris, Seconded by Aylssa Draper.
3. **Business arising from last meeting:** Shane Borthwick investigated food security concerns from last meeting. He shared the following information with Tammy via email: The Food Depot Program. The program requires a community partner and in their case it is City Hub. They want to expand to our region but to do so we would need a community partner to effectively manage, store, prepare the food. (I'm not sure who that could be in your community - maybe the Wesleyan Church group?)

Erica Lane - Saint John Ed Centre is Rebecca Allan's contact that Rosemary suggested you and Rebecca contact to learn more about this program.

She indicated that your Healthy Learners budget has been increased to its maximum.

The Food Bank is likely part of the solution as well and we can ensure they are aware of the need. Have you or Rebecca been in touch with them?

Rosemary indicated in Hampton their PSSC - bought a freezer. When food hits expiration dates, the local food bank will give to school. Community people come in to the school to make soup, banana bread etc.

Clothing drive - St Stephen Middle. Publish to community regarding a clothing drive. Every Tues evening come into theatre. Men, women, kids clothing.

PSSC Meeting Minutes  
Blacks Harbour School

These were some ideas/suggestions. If contact can be made with Erica maybe from there we could identify a community partner to allow that program to be implemented.

Also bringing John Craig the mayor and the Foodbank up to speed to discuss the current need, funding currently and the gap that needs to be addressed would be another important step.

Rebecca Allen reported that the Food Depot program has been discontinued since Shane conducted his research.

As a PSSC we decided to table this topic until the new school year.

4. **School Supplies Fee vs School Supplies List:** Tammy reported that BHS faculty are trying to determine if it would be better for parents to pay a school fee of \$65 for school supplies, or if parents would prefer to receive a list so they can do their own shopping. She explained that as a school we are able to purchase in bulk, which reduces the overall cost for supplies, but teachers acknowledged that \$65 dollars is still a large price for many of our families. The parents on our PSSC reported that they can't purchase school supplies on their own for less than \$100.00 and they expressed that shopping for supplies is often difficult. The PSSC determined that most parents would prefer the \$65 school fee. Tammy agreed to report this information to faculty.
5. **Education Governance Renewal:** Tammy shared information on the proposed changes to the DEC and PSSC for next year. She shared changes to the governing structure, highlighting the following changes:
  - a. Superintendent will report to the deputy minister instead of the DEC.
  - b. The DEC will act in a more advisory capacity.
  - c. PSSC members will receive new training.
  - d. PSSC members will approve school-based School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals.

Shane shared concerns regarding the new changes to the superintendent's reporting structure. In particular, he's concerned that the DEC, as a representative of our schools and PSSC's will have less influence over policies and that our superintendent will be required to "toe the party line" or be removed, as has been the case in other areas within our provincial government recently.

6. **Holistic Curriculum:** Tammy showed a video about the new Holistic Curriculum and shared that BHS will be participating in the pilot in September.
7. **Communication Policy:** Tammy showed a video on the proposed communication policy for 2023 and we discussed implications for communicating with BHS families. We agree that privacy of information is important, and protecting students and staff is necessary.

PSSC Meeting Minutes  
Blacks Harbour School

We have concerns about being able to communicate with our families in a timely and effective manner without the use of parent friendly apps. The TEAMS app is not user friendly and our parents are less likely to communicate using email. We also have parents in low economic brackets who don't have minutes on their cell phones (and don't use land lines). These parents are not available for phone calls and they communicate by messenger apps when they are in Wi-Fi areas. We are hoping that our district will source or develop user friendly apps for communicating with parents.

- 8. PSSC Principal Evaluation:** Tammy shared that she confirmed with Rosemary Southard (Director of Schools) that this evaluation is done on a rotation and does not need to be completed this year.

- 9. Adjournment of meeting**

10. Next Meeting: September 2023