

GMCS/WHES PSSC Meeting Minutes from November 28, 2016

Attendance: Sally Cogswell, Lorianne Sveinson, Jenna Rideout, Hunter Park

1. Review of Minutes of June 13th meeting- this was tabled as last week as no one had a copy to read. Minutes approved with all in agreement.
2. Principal Sally Cogswell shared the Principal's report from Oct 17/16-Nov 28/16. See below:

October 17- PSSC was cancelled and moved to the 24th due to a lack of quorum.

Flewelling Photography came to do photo retakes on October 20th. School photos arrived today at lunch time and are now sorted to go home tomorrow

Halloween dances occurred on Oct 26th in the evening. Classes in K-8 did Halloween activities on the 31st of October. Students and staff were encouraged to wear costumes that day.

Our Kick off the Kindergarten meeting was held on Oct 27th- an info session for parents. WE currently have 22 students registered for Kindergarten (class size is 21 so likely will be a K and a K/1.

On Nov 1st, our grade 11 & 12 students travelled to Career Expo.

November 2nd- EYE-DA testing was set up for the enrolled Pre-Ks.

On Nov. 3rd, The Village of Grand Manan brought John Westhaver to speak to high school students about choices behind the wheel and getting to zero fatalities. The island's public safety committee organized this and the school invited Mayor Greene and the Public Safety Committee to lunch with John Westhaver- along with RCMP members who were available. This lunch was catered by the GMCS Grade 11 Culinary class. John's message was well received by students- we are hopeful this had impact!

On November 9th and 10th, I got to listen to Dr. Chorney- a registered Psychologist -speak about student anxiety and strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with anxiety.

Last week report cards went out (a little more challenging as we are working in a new database system) and we held parent teacher interviews with professional learning for teachers in the afternoon- K-5 discussed Zones of Regulation, a program we are looking to implement. 6-12 discussed reasons behind student misbehaviour and giving students the tools to succeed.

Staffing changes: EA Shelley Veysey resigned her EA position at WHES to take a job in Moncton. We were sad to lose Shelley. Laid-off EA Karen Prime has replaced her in this position.

On Nov 22, I was able to visit Portage, a drug rehabilitation centre in Cassidy Lake, near the Norton turn off. This facility offers services for youth- ages 14-21- who are referred by either Probation or Mental Health (which we can access through Child and Youth Team). Students receive an education and also counselling and support to beat addictions. Currently, there are 26 youth housed there – primarily around NB. We listened to several of the youth tell their stories- masking "hurt" behind substances was a common theme.

Pink Week for anti-bullying was held at GMCS last week by the SRC. Beyond the Hurt training was held on Nov. 24- to train a few new student facilitators in grades 6-12. This group is led by teacher Daphna Turner.

The SRC has had 2 movie nights- both with about 70 people in attendance. The new “Ghostbusters” movie remake was shown on Oct 28th; “Finding Dory” on Nov 25th.

SRC spent Nov 25th decorating the school for Christmas- both inside and out and it looks lovely!

3. Review of 2016-17 School Improvement Plan for K-2, 3-5, Ms, HS levels plus WHES- SIP was reviewed with PSSC members .
4. **Next meeting scheduled for December 12th at 7 p.m.** Agenda: Present the Core Leadership SIP goals, and Code of Conduct. Other agenda items: PSSC members would like to examine the possibility of a better plan than going into the woods in a lockdown. Also issues were raised re; the security of classroom doors. Sally will follow these two issues up with RCMP and facilities respectively prior to the next meeting.