

Grand Manan Community School & White Head Elementary PSSC Minutes- October 15, 2018

Attendance: Sally Cogswell, Gina Urquhart, Duska Ingalls, Luke Anderson, Jenna Rideout, Rose Hogenbirk

Regrets: Alison Hayman, Sherman Ross, Emily Ingersoll

1. Principal's Report – September 11th-October 15th:

Frisbee Rob visited GMCS on September 19th. He was a big hit. Students enjoyed his Frisbee demonstrations and getting a chance to learn some Frisbee tricks. His message to students was to go screen free for a day to experience the world around them; to find a hobby and stick with it until they get good as he did with Frisbee.

The school Terry Fox Run was on September 21st. School photos occurred Oct 1-2; retakes were today.

Danielle Materniak (from Guidance) and I have been invited to a Harm Reduction Stakeholder Meeting in regards to opioid use on the island. Danielle attended the second meeting of this group last week while I was away. While we have not seen opioid use with students yet, we are concerned about impact on the island and on families in general. We are awaiting legalization of marijuana- not really knowing if we will see any impact on school or not.

A number of emergency drills occurred during this time frame- a fire drill, our annual evacuation drill (which went the smoothest it ever has!), bus evacuation drill, and our lockdown drill on October 10th. Community RCMP member Lisa Williams attended the lockdown along with a member of our local detachment. We are talking to staff about the possibility of a lockdown at noon later in the year.

I was away for Principal's meetings on September 26th. Part of the day's agenda related to concussion management as a growing number of concussions are being diagnosed across the province. We also learned that our non- NBIAA sports are not covered by insurance so forms have been sent home to alert parents, including waivers to sign.

Our Student Services Coordinator Helen Johnston was here for 2 days to attend a number of case conferences for students. We have had a turnover in Resource as well. Colin Donegani left to take a job in NS; Alison Ogilvie was hired to replace him. Another staff turnover was in our custodial group. Phil Kenney took a job in Saint John. Jacqueline Brown is the new head custodian replacing Phil; Sandra Shaw will replace her in the K-5 wing.

Our school participated in an exchange trip through Experiences Canada – with a group of students travelling out to BC with Mr. Hayman and two parents. Some staff and students from BC are visiting here for the week this week.

SRC held a magazine campaign the past couple weeks and have organized a bottle drive for this coming weekend. The school is organizing a coffee fundraiser for early November- through a NS company- with proceeds going to the playground fund.

We are seeing flu and cold season hit earlier with a number of students out last week and this week.

2. School Improvement Plan 2018-19- PSSC viewed and discussed GMCS School Improvement Plan. (Copy posted on school homepage). Main focus areas: Assessment, Numeracy/Literacy, Peer

Observations (teachers observing and giving feedback to other teachers). (2 of 3 areas were identified by last school review).

Next meeting date- November 19th at 7 pm. Agenda items? Policy 703, Bullying. Sally to send breakdown of physical violence category from last year's data.