

PSSC Meeting for GMCS & WHES- February 29, 2016 (rescheduled from February 22, 2016)

Attendance: Sally Cogswell, Tony Hannaford, Hunter Park, Rose Hogenbirk, Sherman Ross

Regrets: Jenna Rideout, Gina Urquhart, Courtney Budgell, Lorianne Sveinson

1. It was moved by Rose Hogenbirk, seconded by Sally Cogswell that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as distributed.
2. Business arising from the minutes:
 - The FUN FRIENDS puppet and book kits have arrived! Details of program were shared.
 - A sample of WHES's newsletter was distributed- 2 have been sent so far- 1 in Nov., and 1 in Jan.
 - Sally spoke to Kelly re: additional items on menu- food left over from break (egg sandwiches and pizza bagels) may be available if leftovers. Started doing pre-orders for K-5 the week on Jan 22 to get lines going faster which means more time for students to eat.

Connected with this issue, PSSC members wondered if pre-ordering a week at a time would be better as some schools do this and collect \$ the week ahead. Sally will talk to Kelly Cook, the cafeteria manager, to see her thoughts on this. Also the topic of posting the cafeteria menu on Facebook was discussed as well as linking it to our homepage.

3. Principal's Report – Jan-Feb 2016- shared by Principal Sally Cogswell

Since our last PSSC meeting, high school exams have occurred (week of Jan 25-29), and students switched classes after the two turn around days. Our visiting Chinese exchange students enjoyed their time on Grand Manan.

On Feb 3, our Pre Ks came for Welcome to Kindergarten night- students enjoyed doing a variety of activities at centres with K-2 teachers while parents and admin watched. We currently have 22 registered but have learned about a few others not yet registered so have been contacting those families to get students registered. We want all students registered before April 1st at the latest so they are counted in next year's numbers and so students have time to be given the EYE-DA test and receive intervention if needed through FACE and Talk with Me. Admin has begun the process of transition meetings for Pre-Ks who need extra supports

We have had 3 storm days and a one hour delay thus far in February.

I travelled over to WHES on the am of Feb 17 to observe teaching and learning there. I was delighted to meet the new class pet- a hamster named Hammy.

Day 2 of Health and Safety training for our Health and safety Committee occurred on Thursday. Because of pelting rain, thunder and lightning, we had to reschedule our wintertime fire drill (we are required to do at least one in winter months).

We are thrilled and celebrating the safe arrival of Lincoln Dee Russell, born to teacher Amanda Russell who is now on maternity leave, and the fact that Amanda's Sr. Girls basketball team made it to Harbour station, finishing second in A Girls division. We are also celebrating that the GMCS Mini Girls came in third place at their provincials in Bathurst on the weekend.

We are also thrilled to announce we are gaining an Autism Resource teacher for GMCS! While our current resource teachers have some autism training and are taking more, it will be nice to have the additional expertise to help meet student needs. Most of our EAs and several classroom teachers also have taken an autism course offered by the Dept. or are enrolled in it now.

Admin will be working with our Core Leadership team to begin preparing for our external school review which will be occurring April 13-14.

Day 100 occurred on Feb 23!

Staff have been fundraising for Heart and Stroke with a Dress Red campaign-\$410 raised We have also been collecting donations for the Nick Huggard Memorial Scholarship and had a dress up day where students could pay \$1 to wear pjs or a hat to school. Staff are also contributing to the Action Ministeries food bank between now and the end of March.

Our school budget is spent. We received \$739.20 in PSSC funds based on the number of students we have. We used our funds as District suggested- to help cover the cost of Synervoice- our talk mail system which costs \$631.40. The small amount left over was transferred to help cover a few extra text books for Environmental Science.

Our February Principal's meeting was snowed out- rescheduled for March 3 with a guest speaker on mental health as that is one of the District areas of focus. Hoping the high winds forecast for this week do not hinder my participation in this meeting.

As a question, connected to Principal's report, PSSC members were wondering re: a vaccination policy for the district; does one exist? Sally will ask and report back at next meeting about this.

4. Re-starting up a Home & School group- PSSC would like to explore the possibility of getting a Home and School group started back up at GMCS. One of the purposes would be to fundraise for a new playground. Chair Tony Hannaford is willing to do some leg work contacting some other Home and School groups to seek info on their roles and responsibilities and draft something to go home to parents. Sally Cogswell will contact some principals as well about their success with Home and School to report back. PSSC member Rose Hogenbirk identified three schools with successful Home and Schools as a starting point- Norton Elementary, Hammond River Valley, and Hampton Elementary. PSSC also discussed asking Rotary for funding towards a playground fund from win-win.
5. External School Review- This will be occurring April 13-14; Lead reviewer Keith Pierce. External review recommendations will be shared with PSSC after report is received on April 20th. PSSC parents will be invited to participate in the parent forum as a part of the school review.

6. TTFM data was distributed. PSSC members to look it over, flag anything of interest to discuss at the next meeting.
7. Next meeting date- April 4th at 7 p.m.