

GMCS PSSC Meeting Minutes- September 10, 2018

Attendance: Emily Ingersoll, Alison Hayman, Sally Cogswell, Gina Urquhart, Luke Anderson, Duska Ingalls, Rose Hogenbirk

1. Welcome of new members- Alison Hayman is joining as a community rep. Duska Ingalls is joining as a parent rep. Emily Ingersoll is a member of our SRC and joining as our student rep.
2. Details of PSSC Orientation Workshop- September 26 for St. Stephen Centre; the start time is 6 p.m. with a light supper. Administrators, teacher and student reps are welcome! Sally will check on length to ensure it lines up with late ferry for those who wish to attend.

3. Principal's report from Principal Sally Cogswell:

Today is Day 5.... So it's a brief report. Staffing changes: Robert Hanson is replacing Andrea Linton on Ed leave. Travis Goobie is replacing Heather Brown for first semester as she is on deferred with Danielle Materniak assuming Guidance role. Breanne Anderson is doing MS and HS French and Grade 6/7 ELA. Zoe Ells, Hannah Cook, and Victoria Merrit are all teaching in K-5; rather than supply teaching. EAs- We have Roberta Brown back from leave. Krista Zwicker is filling in for Jennifer Griffin on maternity leave.

We are down in student numbers with 23 moving out and only 12 moving in. We are also down in budget which is why administration felt it was necessary to eliminate the "family rate" we had going with a flat rate of \$25 per student. As a fyi, we will be doing a "Santa's Helper" campaign as a fundraiser with the school keeping 48% of proceeds towards school raised-funds.

There is a change to the safe arrival program- automated instead of a teacher calling. This means parents use the app to report if students are out. Program running K-8- no inclusion of Grade 9 this year. So far, startup has been rather smooth except for things that are beyond our control- like Rhonda's bus breaking down the first day and the power outage planned for tomorrow.

We have someone interested in running the cafeteria who is trying to get everything in place to put in a proposal to run it as a non-profit. We will let parents know if service resumes.

Upcoming- We have HS students leaving for BC on their exchange trip on Friday. They get back Sept 23. Students from BC visit here Oct 13-19. Frisbee Rob will be here Sept 19th. Our Terry Fox Run is on Sept 21st, our evacuation drill is on Sept 27th. Classes will all be receiving epi pen training (info on Sweet Caroline foundation shared).

4. Policy 711- "Healthier School Food Environment"- Examination of policy changes and discussion:
Summary of some of the discussion:
 - All PSSC members agree with the overall philosophy of creating a healthier school food environment.

- There were concerns about fundraising being affected as so many groups raising money and some of the food ones are popular. Discussion that this may change after election as some parties promising to remove fundraising aspect. While PSSC does not fundraise, members are aware how much fundraising parents do for school trips, extra-curricular travel, playground fund, etc.
- With no cafeteria service in place currently, the majority of students bring lunches from home and those are not affected by the policy.
- The school breakfast program will be directly affected. No apple juice permitted. No peanut butter due to nut free. Cheese whiz is out. Changes have been sent to Susan Ballantyne who coordinates program with the Boys and Girls Club. White milk and/or smoothies that fit the policy are an option; but more expensive when school Healthy Minds \$ doesn't even cover the bread we need. Sally mentioned that money normally spent on apple juice could go to fresh fruit occasionally as well if drinks become water if milk is not feasible. Rotary has helped with breakfast program shortfall in the past and likely still will.
- Lunches- Concern re: students who need a lunch. Currently school uses canned items like zoodles, or KD cups if a student needs a lunch and parents cannot be contacted. These are donated by Action Ministeries, the local foodbank. These items are no longer allowed by policy. Sally will talk to Joyce Walker-haley, the Healthy Learners' Nurse about options for lunch- with limited ability to do food prep/cooking and no-cafeteria. All agreed that no one wanted children to go without food.
- Issue of moderation- One member raised that occasional treats are fine but policy no longer allows cupcakes at Valentine's parties, candy canes at Christmas, etc. This is a change from last version. Sally mentioned that teachers will help let parents know what can be brought in as treats that fit the policy.
- Questions were asked about whether curriculum changes around healthy eating were coming. Sally did not know but indicated Healthy Learners' Nurse alluded to a change in Canada's Food Guide that was coming.
- Group discussed children needing to be more physically active in general.