

PSSC Meeting – Milltown Elementary School
October 7, 2013

6:30 PM

Present:

Bob Burnside
Erin Comeau
Judy Haley
Melissa Brown
Heather Bell-Williams

1. Welcome and Introductions – Heather explained that Cathy Halstead, our Community Schools Co-ordinator was absent tonight due to attending the Anti Poverty Coalition discussion in St. Andrews
2. We established norms for our meetings:
 - a. Five meetings/school year (October, December, February, April and June)
 - b. One hour 6:30-7:30 PM
 - c. Discussions would focus on issues pertaining to all students. Any issues that were student specific should be brought to Heather or Melissa privately.
 - d. Bob was elected Chair and Cathy will be secretary.
3. Principal's Report:
 - a. School Improvement Plan – full plan on our website
 - b. Targets – writing achievement, consistent response to behaviour, family and community engagement, positive mental health for children and youth, increased math achievement
 - c. Heather explained the process – how parents, students and teachers had input into the targets
 - d. How you could help – volunteer tutoring, help supervise Family nights, bring your ideas to PSSC, engage other parents in conversation about school, come skating if you can, help serve/clean up at b.fast club
 - e. Enrollment – currently 192, down somewhat from our projected 207
 - f. FAST – Families and Schools Together – starts Oct. 16 at 4:30 -7:00 PM – some discussion around the recruitment process
 - g. Tutor program for grades 1 and 2 students from 2-3 PM – Heather explained the role of Sarah McLay, the worker from the BGCCC who is doing our after school program and the tutoring program
 - h. Homework club via the BGCCC
 - i. Kindergarten registration for fall 2014, Oct. 15-18
 - j. Skating starts this week – thanks to Dent Daddy Paintless Dent Repair for funding skating (\$2400)
 - k. Fun on the Mat starts this week – a wrestling program on Wednesdays from 3-5 PM for students in grades 3-5. Some discussion about cost of the program and Heather indicated that the co-ordinator, Pat Zwicker, had said that he would **waive the fee for any families for whom the fee was a barrier (we had about 20 students attend on Oct. 9!)**
4. What other issues would you like to see discussed at PSSC:

- a. Head lice – **Cathy and Heather to continue to pursue Kindred Home Care** to see if they could be involved in helping with chronic cases/some discussion over the notion that Public Health no longer considered it a reason to exclude students/are there retired teachers or volunteers who would help out?
 - b. School Supplies – would parents rather pay a fee and have school purchase supplies or continue with current plan to have supply lists go home? The parents in attendance felt that as long as the fee was reasonable (and included the agenda fee so it was a one time fee), they would like to pay a fee.
 - c. Student Agendas – **can we get them done more cheaply?**
 - d. Bob brought up that our Crossing Guard is concerned about speeding motorists at the crosswalk/it was suggested that **Bob contact the RCMP**
 - e. Fund-raising – Bob said that one parent had commented to him that they would like to have been able to purchase T-shirts and other clothing items in the fundraising orders
 - f. Buses – there had been a parent concern about bussing in the Bell Subdivision – Heather indicated that the parent had come to her and that they had discussed the issue and that it had been resolved
 - g. K readiness – some parents were expressing concern to Bob about the high standard of Kindergarten readiness that was expected – why were students expected to be able to print their name, know letters, etc prior to school entry
 - h. Skating – Bob volunteers at skating regularly and he noted that when he was in school, the skating program included trained teachers, levels, badges, etc. **/Heather said she would forward the Department Skating Guidelines to Bob**/Bob noted that children were thirsty after skating and wondered if students could be given a water bottle for the trip/Melissa indicated that it was a family choice and water bottles were allowed, although it was difficult for primary children to carry one more item in addition to their helmet, their skates, ski pants, mitts, etc.
5. **Next Meeting – Monday Dec. 9, 2013, 6:30-7:30 PM**