

Bliss Carman Middle School

PSSC Meeting Minutes

December 7th, 2016

In attendance: Neville Peasley, Karen Flinn, Nathan Langille, Joey Bernard, Chantale Cloutier, John Hamilton, Heather Ingalls, Neil Gordon, Mary Whiteside Lantz, Julie LeGresley, Dean Landers, Tammy Shaw-Reynolds and Kinh Huynh.

Regrets: Terry Pond, Ginger Nicholson,

Call to order: 6:35pm.

Approval of the agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mary Whiteside Lantz, seconded by Joey Bernard, and unanimously approved by voting members.

Approval of minutes from previous meetings (June 1st and November 2nd): Motion to approve the June 1st meeting minutes was made by Joey Bernard, seconded by Neville Peasley, and unanimously approved by voting members. Motion to approve the November 2nd meeting minutes was made by Dean Landers, seconded by Neil Gordon, and unanimously approved by voting members.

Business arising from the last meeting:

1. PSSC Budget – The total budget is \$1522. The committee identified three areas for funding; SynerVoice (balance of budget), batteries for two-way radios (\$333.72) and posters for BCMS mission and vision statements (amount is TBD). Posters are expected to cost less than \$200. School administration will confirm price of posters for January meeting. Motion to approve the PSSC budget was made by Dean Landers, seconded by Neville Peasley, and unanimously approved by voting members.
2. Bomb Threat Procedure Communication – John Hamilton the District procedure has been amended to be school-specific. John Hamilton reviewed a letter received from the Superintendent and Director of Finance. Due to the security and safety concerns with this subject the letter was made available to members only during the meeting. It was also note the District procedure is not a public document. John Hamilton confirmed BCMS Administration plans to discuss the procedure ion a communication to Parents during Safe Schools Week in October 2017. The PSSC Chairperson, Karen Flinn, will follow up with Ginger Nicholson whom had raised the item for discussion during the October meeting to determine if any further discussion is warranted.
3. Detention non-announcements – John Hamilton confirmed student names are no longer being announced in relation to in-school detention.
4. Mental Health Resources for Parents – Mary Whiteside Lantz provided BCMS Administration with mental health resource materials. The information was sourced from the US National

Institute of Mental Health and the information is public and therefore can be shared without prior approval required. Members were asked to review the material and advise any concerns no later than Monday, December 12th. Based on feedback the school Guidance Councillor, Julie LeGresley, will send the information to parents via School Connects.

5. “What-the App” Parent Information Session – It was confirmed the information provided at the session is now available on the BCMS website.
6. Tutor List – John Hamilton confirmed an email was sent to parents identifying the process to be followed when engaging District tutors.
7. BCMS Cheer Program – John Hamilton provided a status update on the current support BCMS provides its students who participate in cheer programs. Members agreed the support was sufficient.

Correspondence – none at this time.

Parent Communication

1. Parent teacher interviews conducted in November were very successful. Teaching teams continue to meet with parents who were unable to attend November 24th and 25th. Members confirmed they have not heard any concerns from parents regarding format and accessibility.
2. This year John Hamilton initiated a new parent communication called “Weekly Words” intended to update parents on the upcoming week’s event. Karen Flinn expressed concern the focus of the communique BCMS has extended beyond the week horizon and has included duplicate announcements from previous editions. Karen Flinn is concerned the duplication may cause parents to miss or over look and event or information item. Members discussed these concerns ultimately decided more information is better than less information, however, Mr. Hamilton will endeavour to shorten the time horizon included in the weekly edition.

Principal’s report: To be added

Teachers report:

1. Many teachers and teaching teams are still conducting parent-teacher interviews for report cards, giving up prep periods as well as after-school time.
2. Words of the week: teachers are keeping the office up to date on events happening to be added to the school-wide email. This is in addition to teacher blogs, wikis, and weekly emails that many teams are doing in order to communicate with parents.
3. Gift Card BLITZ: our annual school goal is to raise \$1500, a goal that is reached every year. With this, we are able to support at least 5 families, but there is always a never ending need. The guidance department has noticed a sharp increase in the number of needy families this year.

4. First Nations WE DAY: three grade 8 students were invited to attend a FN WE DAY on Friday December 2nd at the UNB Currie Center. First Nations students province wide students participated in several cultural activities and listened to guest speakers to address the importance of citizenship, tenacity and focusing on goals.
5. The BCMS We Care group attended the Halifax WE DAY on Wednesday November 30th. Mrs. Natasha Lingley did an excellent job in monitoring the weather conditions and had many contingency plans to meet the changing forecast. Out students were exemplary and really enjoyed being at this global event.
6. Ring a Bell for Mental Health day was on Friday December 2nd. A message of removing stigma from mental health conversations was brought to students during grade level assemblies.
7. Student Leadership help their annual hot chocolate sale ON Friday December 2nd. Funds raised goes towards other student activities, but also a portion of money raised from this event goes towards the Gift Card BLITZ.
8. Student Leadership have their 2nd annual day of volunteering coming up this Friday, December 9th. We will be spending the morning at the Fredericton Community Kitchen again this year, helping with meal prep. Following a group lunch, we will be hosting a Christmas party – complete with games and crafts – at Pine Grove nursing home.
9. Holly-O-Grams are being sold next Wednesday December 14th. This is a collaborative project between many grade 8 classrooms and being directed through Mrs. Murray. This is an annual fundraiser towards the World Vision sponsorship commitments. Our annual dues for three sponsorships are \$1200.
10. Quebec City fundraising meeting was held today at lunch with Mr. Strange. Students have been provided with one fundraising event through the school at this point.
1. “BCMS “We Care” students participating in the upcoming WE DAY celebrations in Halifax.
2. School Remembrance Day ceremony happening on November 9th
3. Guidance attending upcoming Violent Threat Risk Assessment in Woodstock

Home and School Report:

1. Family Fun Night was held on November 18th and was very successful, raising \$4500. The committee conducted a “lessons learned” review of the event to learn from successes and identify opportunities for improvement. Next year’s Family Fun Night will be held on November 17th, 2017.

2. The Home and School Committee created a Bliss Carman Home and School Committee Facebook page to provide the community with ongoing activities and information. Please like the page and share it with others.

Other Business:

1. Chantal Cloutier updated members on BCMS's participation in the TTFM survey. The survey closes December 16th and the results will be shared with the PSSC.

Adjournment: Move to adjourn, Dean Landers, at 7:50 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 18th, 2016