

Devon Middle School PSSC

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 7 – 8 pm

Attendees Present: Charlotte Flores, Emile Bourgeois, Emily McAllister, Shawna Allen-VanderToorn, Courtney Richard, Aneas MacInnis, Chandra Clowater, Joe Crummey, April Barnet, Cody Butler, Rachel Lively, April Barnet

- 7 pm – Quorum achieved.
- Motion to approve – Courtney and Emile
- Minutes – motion to approve Courtney and Emile

Plexiglass and additional school repairs

- Support for plexiglass for balcony – plexiglass will be installed in the summer of 2022 on the balcony area, roof is being fixed as capital budget. Appeal to David McTimoney to extend the new look of painting into the hallway. Quotes were done. Good news.

Additional VP added to staffing

- DMS has Joe Crossman for three months. Another person is important considering how busy the school is at the moment. His focus is on the grade sevens.

Transition teams

- Booked transition teams to meet with grade fives and first will be with Nashwaak Valley.
- The LHHS meetings will be virtual.
- Grade fives booked to come into the school.

Fundraising

- Coffee fundraiser huge success. Raised about \$1400 and we keep a portion to help offset expenses.
- Scotts fundraiser went home with report cards.
- Chapters fundraiser to come.

School vision exercise

- Working on school vision, brought all teachers together – Core leadership team took it out to others. Small group to creation vision and then develop school mission.

Provincial assessments

- iPad of a certain age don't work.
- Made a decision that b/c band with is an issue 100 students will write per day.
- No one else will use iPad during this time due to connectivity.

Indigenous youth student forum

- What will Wolastoqey Wednesday look like?
- Youth to talk about what they will see, Bonita Hunt and Alex Paul to work with DMS.

Parent teacher meetings

- First time having parents in the building.
- Interesting to see who choose virtual vs in person.
- Of note, parent teacher meeting difference is that you can only meet with one teacher at a time vs. a team of teachers which means one meeting vs. (example) five. The issue is that there aren't that many slots and that some parents just want to see one teacher.

Dances are coming back!

- First school dance (May 19th) to come.
- Grade 8 dance (June) at Heritage Centre in Marysville.
- There will be an assembly to talk about expectations and behaviour matters.
- Sock hops to come as well.
- Home and school volunteers will run the canteen. This is typically very successful.

Behaviour around the school

- Of note that DMS has happier kids since Covid restrictions lifted something to continue to look at.
- Influx of behaviour but not big things. Kids learning how to be together again.
- Grade 7 group keeping DMS the busiest. Not major just constant.
- Basketball games and sports have been very long awaited. Activity is keeping students engaged.
- Clubs have started up to keep kids engaged, art club, lego, DHL, music program, walk club, journalism, Dungeons and Dragons, etc.
- Hoping to send another email to staff after report cards to say these are the ideas generated by students.
- Would like to create more opportunity for kids this year.

Spark

- May 5th launch run for three weeks during period 3&4 staff are looking at adjusting schedules.
- Five options and should actually look at choices, students should be in places that they enjoy as teachers put in their top activities and also want to have students who are engaged and having fun.
- The 8's got to do this one time but it's new for everyone else.

Next and last meeting of the school year

- Next meeting is last meeting.
- We decided that we would be together in person for last meeting. Need feedback, we could meet at the school, at a restaurant, school library last year. Any thought on restaurant?
- It comes out of budget. May 10th is next meeting, we would have to reserve if we want to go someplace.
- Trying to support a local restaurant. Greek Street, New England. Would we rather meet at the school? What about time? Meet and change time? Keep same time and bring Greek Street into school.

ACTION: Sent menu around.

DEC Challenges

- Sent email to M. Mazerolle about new school and he was invited to meeting tonight.
- Concern that new PSSC member has not attended a meeting.
- He has been invited to every meeting. Concerning that he hasn't attended.
- Is DEC rep part of the district education council? Yes.
- Who is the chair, can we ask the question?
- Suggest reaching out to Randal. Concern that Randal would get it, he had a really clear vision and hoping the next person would be active. Really disappointing.
- Wondering if it's something to do with the DEC that he can't come to meetings? Are days not coordinating?
- Hope intention is good. Should we redo the email I sent him?
- Has he been to others – not Barkers Point or Gibson Neill.

School capacity issues

- Wrote district asking for another portable.
- In hallways doing intervention, need to use changing room in hallway for intervention.
- Asked for space audit. We use classroom for Wolastoquey language, band and resource team office space because we have no other office space.
- 25 classrooms of students.
- Do we know if the new school is a K-8?
- No, K-5 but not completely sure.
- If we were to have an FTE for intervention worker we don't have space for employee.
- We want to champion kids that they are not an afterthought.
- Would the parent of a special needs parent be made aware of location? And would they be able to champion district?

Online Safety Course

- Parent presentation is 30-45 minutes. Preference for in person but virtual is an option.
- Student presentations request due to issues being seen with phones.
- Need for a projector and could be made to work.
- Need to pick a time and get communication out to parents.
- Communication at end of May?

ACTION – Pick a time and book gym for safety course (possibly May 26th at 6:30 pm).

- In person feels more connected, more comfortable conversation, people don't speak up.
- Too hard to do both at the same time.
- Timeline? Week of May 23rd at earliest, May 26th possibly 6:30 pm.

ACTION – Pick a new Chair at next meeting all team to give thought.

ACTION – End of year support of writing letter to teachers to thank them for all their efforts this year. Really important to champion them.

– A nice pick me up is the last week of school. Suggest purchase of ice cream treats.

ACTION – Come with ideas to thank teachers.

Request from Shawna - Lobby looks great. Instant imprints provided quotes for pillars and other door space. PSSC school expense and a good opportunity.

ACTION – To talk about and approve additional signage at next meeting. This would be for next year's budget. Seen as a positive PSSC expense.

ACTION – Do we know of other lunchtime activities at other schools that might be useful to DMS.

