**New Maryland School**

**75 Clover st. E3C 1C5**

**Parent School Support Committee**

**Minutes**

**September 19th, 2017 6:30 pm Location; school**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PSSC Members Present:**  **Chair: Natalie Holder, teacher reps Sarah Bird and Melissa Gaudet, Matt Stainforth, Krystle Roherty, Dawn O’Donnell, Loreigh MacKay, Peter Dickinson**  **PSSC Members Regrets:** | **School/DEC Representation Present:**  **Principal Heather Hallett**  **DEC Terry Pond**  **School/DEC Representation Regrets:** |

**Call to Order:** 6:35

**Approval of the Agenda:** Bird, MacKay

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Bird, Holder

**Introductions Roundtable, Setting of meeting dates**

The committee has agreed to a trial meeting time of 4:30 on Mondays.

September 19th, October 16th, November 20th, January 15th, February 12th, March 19th, April 16th, May 28th

**Review of committee positions** Chair and Vice Chair will remain the same for now. Chair Natalie Holder and Vice Chair Dave Lavigne

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

1. **Guest speaker series for parents**

Members present supported continuing this initiative

1. **PSSC budget**

Typically receive 1200.00 in the budget. The members reviewed how budget has been spent in the past to support school communication and invited to keep this item in mind as there is a deadline for spending.

**Reports**

1. **DEC**

There was a recent retreat for DEC members in St Andrews

New interim superintendent

Reviewed the role of PSSC members and declaration forms were signed

At this time no #409s (school closures) are on the DEC agenda

1. **Home and School**

Playground update

Budget

Fall Frolic

1. **Principal**

**Ten year plan:** We are in year two the Balanced Literacy and Numeracy items as well as formative assessment continues. Added this year: Indigenous education

**DIP:** District Improvement Plan (2017-2020) has 3 main goals:

-Strengthening teaching practices and environments to foster engagement of all learners

-Improved use and quality of formative assessment

-Strengthen collective efficacy through collaborative leadership

District Positive Learning and Working Environment Plan:

-Strengthen the collective understanding of positive learning and working environments

-Strengthen the conditions for success with specific strategies to promote connectedness.

Copies were given to members

**SIP:** School Improvement Plan

**-Improve student command of the 6 traits of writing; Enhance reading opportunities whole** school

-Improved student number sense by strengthening provision of a balanced Math program and improved quality of formative assessment

School Positive Learning and Working Environment Plan: Students will gain confidence and competence in learning how to resolve conflict using the WITS program.

Copies were given to members. \*Please note the School improvement plan will be revisited, reviewed and possibly revised this school year.

**Monthly advocacy themes**

Conditions that affect students in our school and community as well as some global issues are high-lighted through whole school events and initiatives to provide learning and increase awareness. Examples: September-Cancer/Terry Fox Run, October Polio. We hope to improve communication with families around these topics.

**Start up:** The school year start-up has been relatively smooth. The assigned number of teachers was not adjusted and it appears that busing concerns have been addressed. There has been constant use of the new playgrounds both during the day and in the evening.

**Combined classes:** There is an official combined Grade 4/5 classat the school this year. The parents of some of the students expressed concerns which were addressed between the homeroom teacher and administration. Most classes whether members are the same age or not are “combined” as there are a natural range of abilities. Teachers are trained to respond with universal design for learning and differentiation of instruction and assessment.

**New Business:** Fees and requests for student school supplies.

A parent has had an on-going conversation with the school regarding student fees and school supplies. Her complaints: Education is supposed to be free, the lists are unreasonable and wasteful, the school has not given a detailed description of how the money is spent and the supplies used. School response: Student fee was waived, Principal confirmed through the ASD-W website that our school is in line with the other elementary schools, the 45.00 fee equals $4.50 per month, referred to policy 132 which states that schools provide free instruction and related resources and parents provide materials, clothing and equipment intended for personal use. Staff is held accountable for all purchases and submit detailed receipts. The school staff will review the fee and supplies and revise if necessary before requests are re-issued for the 2018-19 school year

**Correspondence: NA**

**Closing Comments: member e-mails will be shared with the group. Electronic communication between meeting dates can be expected.**

**Date of Next Meeting: October 16th 4:30**

**Adjournment: 7:55**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PSSC Chair Date**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PSSC Secretary Date**