**New Maryland Elementary School**

**Parent School Support Committee**

**PSSC Minutes**

**Date/Time:** January 31, 2017 at 6-7:30 pm

**Location:** New Maryland Elementary School

1. **Call to Order**

* In attendance: Heather Hallett, Aurora Reid, Sarah Bird, Stacy Coy, Natalie Holder, Jennifer Bent Richard
* Regrets: Karyn Hamilton, David Lavigne, Lisa Inness, Terry Pond

1. **Review of October Minutes**
   * Minutes reviewed in-meeting and approved by Jennifer Bent Richard, Seconded by Natalie Holder
2. **Review and Approval of Agenda**
   * Parent Survey sent out by school and DEC rep, the deadline is tonight
   * Agenda approved by Sarah Bird, seconded by Stacy Coy
3. **Business Arising from the minutes**
4. Feedback from November 16th session
   * Well received by participants
   * 45 participants
   * Asked Karyn if there was any feedback from Ryan re anything we could improve on; will circulate anything provided
   * Teachers were interested in possibly having a growth mindset book study
   * Interest in continuing with the learning sessions for parents
5. Next Info Session:
   * Judith Margison is interested in doing a session on resiliency and potentially including information on anxiety.
   * Communication strategy should be developed (including social media, committee members’ personal contacts; other schools; posters; teachers’ distribution systems, etc.)
   * Aurora will contact Judith re dates she is available and topics
   * Heather will follow up with Bliss Carman as part of the promotion/communication strategy
   * Working with Home and School would help with promotion
   * Question about having two speakers vs one? Aurora will talk with Judith to see what her comfort level is doing an hour session
   * Other potential speakers (for future or should Judith not be available) include: Patty Peterson and Bill Morrison; perhaps together
6. **PSSC Budget**
   * Money must be spent by March 31st
   * $1400 is there to be spent
   * Some schools have a parent/teacher open house night; develop information pamphlets for parents; prepare thank you cards for the school;
   * Items that would be useful for NMES this year include:
     1. supporting the signs for the community trail project (previously discussed and supported by PSSC members, and approved as PSSC budget expenditure), however these signs are not ready yet;
     2. bilingual signs for the school (the school has very few bilingual signs and the new maker space in the hub would benefit from these,
     3. the school website was mandatorily changed and would benefit from updating to aid in communicating with parents; past PSSC budget has supported this and it would be useful again
     4. The PSSC felt it might be too late in the year for an effective pamphlet campaign or open house
   * Two ideas recommended (need to email full committee for decision due to lack of quorum): bilingual signs for the school and release time to update the website - email to be sent out to the PSSC and seek a decision
7. **Reports**

a) **DEC update**

* + Review of Terry’s January report
  + Highlighted that the survey in the report is due today and the updated recommendations for the LHHS catchment are available on the ASD-W website (note that the voting for those changes took place on Jan 26)

**b) Principal’s Report**

* + Parent Teacher conferences were well attended
  + Parent information night with Ryan Hamilton was well received
  + Student attendance motivation: lunch with the principal is working well
  + Christmas Concert well attended, voluntary collection at the door raised $300 which bought recorders for the school Music program
  + December 15th- Janice Shaw came to the school to perform the Grinch Stole Christmas
  + BOKS (Bring Our Kids Success): piloted at the school for 34 students through the PhysEd teachers. These students volunteer for the Phys Ed leader group.
  + After School Basketball ran for 6 weeks: very successful
  + ELF program ( Literacy) ran a block in the fall and a winter block is now in session
  + Maker Writer Space: information has been sent out via email and school website re: how this space works, focus is on writing.
  + Skating: Grades 1-5 are skating as part of their PhysEd minutes
  + Bilingual Learning Environment Policy money used to fund visits from Louis Pytre and on another date Roland Bibeau, as well as bilingual signage.
  + School introduction and safety video; any new staff are to be provided an orientation so a video of this information will be produced and shared on AESOP.

School Improvement Planning:

* School review was completed in January. The internal and external review teams will meet next week. Positive Learning and Working Environments Plan was revised to include components of the WITS program (conflict resolution program).
  + Bridging Program: EECD sponsored and asks how are we preparing kids for schools before school and can preschools support? Teacher from New Maryland School will be part of this group to advise.
  + Many teachers are participating in Professional Learning in February. Topics include power school, the Math initiative from the 10 year plan, formative assessment and balanced literacy.

**c) Home and School Update**

* + $100 was provided to each Teacher and Specialist for classroom supplies
  + $14,000 in the bank
  + $6,000 profit from Fall Frolic
  + Tender for playground was submitted and has been awarded
  + Considering providing new flooring for the HUB
  + Teacher Appreciation Day is in February
  + Spell A Thon in March (new date this year)

**6.** **New Business** See above: guest speaker, budget, meeting when school is cancelled

**7.** **Next Meeting:** February 22nd

**8. Adjournment:** 7:50 pm