**Park Street Elementary School**

**Fredericton**

**Parent School Support Committee**

**Minutes**

**September 19, 2018**

**Park Street School Library**

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| **PSSC Members Present:**  **Jeff Beairsto, Chair**  **Julie Peterson**  **Nicole McCarthy**  **Ana Costa**  **Karri Lynn Dwyer**  **Sonya Ward** | **School/DEC Representation Present:**  **Tarah Gauvin, Vice-Principal**  **Regrets:**  **Rien Meesters, Principal** |

**Call to Order:**

**7:00pm**

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**Approved by consensus.**

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

**NA**

**Business arising as a result of new members:**

**Introductions of new members. Jeff also presented a brief overview of the role of the PSSC, to support the principal, polices and has a focus on communication. PSSC works with the School Improvement plan and has a small budget. Typically meetings are around 1 hour and happen 6 times per year on Wednesday evenings. This year we have decided to coordinate the PSSC meetings on the same night as Home and School and have tentatively set those dates as November 7, January 9, February 6, March 13, May 1 and June 5.**

**New Business:**

**Principal’s Update:**

**In Rien’s absence, Tarah presented the principal’s report. Staffing is now complete with 2 additional teachers. Karen Shepard has joined Shauna Kelly and Erin Gallagher to team teach grade 2 English. There is a spare classroom across the hall for them to use to break out into smaller groups as needed. Jason Sterling will be joining the Grade 1 French Immersion group and team teaching with Carrie Beaumaster once his paper work is complete (hopefully within the next week or two).**

**Tarah reviewed how Park Street is set to comply with policy 711 as it relates to nutrition within the school. She reviewed the actual document Rien shared with our parents on meet the teacher night. It was noted that the cafeteria is allowed to sell what they previously had on order prior to the policy being introduced and that teachers will not be policing lunch boxes, but rather trust that parents are sending to school what they wish their child to eat.**

**October 13th will be our Nissan test drive event whereby Nissan will donate $20 for every test drive up to a maximum of $4000. There will also be a Nissan vehicle on site advertising this event. The hope is that this event will generate enough income to replace our Wednesday popcorn fundraiser that has been discontinued.**

**There have been some concerns as to how policy 711 will affect events like year end popsicles and family fun night. We will revisit those concerns as the time gets closer, but it is likely ok since in both of these cases, the parents are the ones providing the treats, not the school, but more clarification will come.**

**Wednesdays from 11am until noon each week is now designated as “power hour”whereby each classroom engages in interest interviews and classroom meetings to learn more about each student. MEC (Make, Explore, Create) bins have been introduced and every teacher will be making a bin to be circulated around the school. Passion Projects have also started to replace LID (Learning in Depth) for 1 hour/week but teachers can expand that time as they see fit.**

**The Fresh Grade app is now school wide on the paid version where there are less bugs and issues are being detected and fixed on a more timely basis than on the free version. Teachers are working now to gain content on their apps so when they launch to parents in mid-October, there will be content to share. The school are keeping an eye on people with no access to a computer or phone for Fresh Grade, but we anticipate this number to be low. The cost of Fresh Grade is approximately $1500/year. It has been asked if the PSSC would consider using part or all of their budget to help offset this cost to the school. No decision was made on this before we receive a follow-up regarding the state of our video surveillance system and clarification from the district on their role with this system installation and monitoring.**

**School Improvement Plan**

**We are currently in year 2 of our 5 year SIP plan. The focus remains on the positive learning and working environment plan and this will also be the agenda for the October 3rd PL day. More details will follow.**

**Other Business**

**The giant tree on the cafeteria wall is now gone and will be replaced by our Park Street ARCC rainbow (Awareness, Resilience, Compassion and Community). Some of the wording from around the tree has been saved and may be incorporated into the updated wall.**

**Miss Jonna is working to secure a grant for the outdoor classroom which is planned for school property between the soccer field and trail to Longwood Drive. Once more information is obtained, the PSSC will be updated.**

**A concern regarding almond milk was brought forward and it was determined that our policy is a nut-friendly school and any item containing nuts of any sort is forbidden to be brought into Park Street School. The safety of our children is our top priority and for that reason almond milk, as well as any other nut products are simply not allowed.**

**Jeff has asked that anyone who wishes to be considered for the position of Chair or Secretary come forward at, or before, our next meeting, at which time we can vote to secure those positions for the 2018-2019 year.**

**Future Meeting Dates**

**November 7, January 9, February 6, March 13, May 1 and June 5**

**Date of Next Meeting:**

**November 7th, 2018**

**Adjournment:**

**8:15pm**

**Jeff Beairsto September 24, 2018**

**PSSC Chair Date**

**Julie Peterson September 24, 2018**

**PSSC Secretary Date**