

**SCHOOL NAME: Ridgeview Middle School**

**Address: 102 Waasis Road, Oromocto, N.B.**

**Parent School Support Committee**

 **Minutes**

**Date: April 6th, 2021 Time: 6pm-7pm**

**Location: RMS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PSSC Members Present:****Jen Myshrall, Chair****Tammy Hudlin, Vice Chair****David Hogan, Teacher Rep.****Others:****Anita Curran, Brandi Cameron, Joanna Desormeaux, Shelley Asselin,** **PSSC Members Regrets:****April Knowles** | **School/DEC Representation Present:****Amanda Piron, Principal** **Thomas Geburt, DEC****School/DEC Representation Regrets:** |

**Call to Order:** Amanda called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

**Approval of the Agenda:** PSSC members as a whole

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:** PSSC members as a whole

**Business Arising from the Minutes:** None mentioned

**New Business:**

**Review of the PSSC Document.**

David McTimmoney asked administrators to review the Introduction to the PSSC document <https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/PSSC/Documents/Introduction%20to%20the%20PSSC%20-%20Training%20Presentation.pdf> with their PSSC. Thomas reviewed the document with the PSSC committee tonight. Highlights from the presentation: PSSC require 6-12 parent members. To have a meeting the Principal needs to be there. The Principal or DEC member cannot vote. The DEC member is there to participate and comment on matters pertaining to the DEC. DEC has certain roles and the school has certain roles. Principal-day to day operations, school, and staff, etc. Funding…what to spend the money on. This is usually the difficult topic, especially in recent years. Meetings need to have quorum. Quorum is 5 members for RMS. Decision making can sometimes result in a non-consensus. We try to consensus but if not reached, it is determined how we go about issues. Everyone is still entitled to their opinion. The minutes are published to a site called CLEVR, so all DEC members can view the minutes to see if there is something of issue. When you vote on things, it needs to be duly recorded in the minutes. Minutes should be very detailed. PSSC meetings should happen at least 5 times a year, although not specified in the handbook. PSSC business should also be communicated to the school/parent community at large through email, newsletter, etc. An update is currently being reviewed for the PSSC handbook.

**Policy** **713 – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

Policy 713 – Guidelines set up by Canadian jurisdictions on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities.

The policy already supports the merge with this policy with the Positive Learning & Environment.
Homophobic, and slander towards a member of the LBGTQ+ community will not be tolerated.

Pronoun Project led by Mrs. Hanscomb and Mr. Powell is underway.

Policy 713 does focus on a supportive, inclusive school environment, alliances, and universal spaces.

RMS has a team of teachers have been reaching out to various book companies for book title recommendations to support the LGBTQ+ community. RMS has strengthened our school library and classroom libraries by investing in title that support an inclusive community where all students can be represented.

Because this Policy is new, there has not been a lot of Professional learning opportunities for staff.

It is important to create a culture where LBGTQ+ see themselves in and are accepted. Messages from the school have intentionally used very gender-neutral language to support our school community.

Mrs. Hanscomb is the designated member to represent the LBGTQ+ community at RMS.

A change of name for a student needs to happen with the consent of the student first, then family to approve their legal name change in PowerSchool. This would affect all school related documents. Parent consent if denied, the student can still use their preferred name within staff to student, student to student conversation but not on school documents.

Schools are required to have an “all genders” washroom – single occupancy. The washroom locks from the inside at RMS. There are currently students using it. The washroom was reviewed with students at an assembly last month.

At this current time, there is conversations happening to see if a second washroom can be installed for the 2021-2022 school year.

Currently, its about creating awareness about all students seeing themselves in the learning space at Ridgeview. The school is working towards creating a safe space for all genders.

The discussion was brought up about the changing rooms at RMS. Members of the PSSC thought that there should be more discussion in this area before a second bathroom was installed. It was seconded by Joanna and brought up by Jenn Myshrall. Ideas around temporary walls, curtains or screens were brought up as possibilities.

**Report Cards**

Report cards were sent out on March 31st. Marks, comments have not been merged like it has at the elementary level. Parent Teacher meetings will be the same format as December using the Booking system to set up a virtual meeting or phone call. The Booking system received positive feedback from parents from Term 1. Parent’s can meet with the team as a whole but outside of normal PT times.

This year, Parent-Teacher meetings will be held on the evening of Tuesday, April 13, 2021 from 5-8pm and on Wednesday morning, April 14 from 9am-12noon. This year we will be offering two options to meet with our teachers individually – virtually through Microsoft Office Teams or via phone. Should you wish to meet with more than one teacher you will need to fill out a form for every appointment you book. If the teacher’s time slots fill up, please reach out to them via email to arrange for another date/time.

**Attendance**

At the Grade 8 level, attendance has been an issue especially. A lot of attendance issues through all recovery color levels. The school has engaged with home to see where they are at, support plans and district personal. The school is struggling with a handful of students and the transition back to school.

There has been a large strain on mental health. A few families are really stuck, and the school is finding it hard to meet the needs as it above the school level. Because high school is the following year for Grade 8 students, this is a major concern at this time, despite the school’s best efforts.

RMS has a Behavior Intervention Mentor (BIM). Kate Sarchfield was in the BIM role at RMS for a short time (went out on maternity). Marissa Donohue is our replacement BIM until Kate returns. Marissa started her new role at RMS today. Mrs. Donahue is part of our ESST. Her work will focus on providing tier 2 interventions (small group with a specific focus on programming) and tier 1 interventions (whole school initiatives) to positively impact the school.

**DECH Nominations**

Amanda sent out an email today about this. April 9th by 2pm, nominations are due. This will be for the Oromocto area DECH representative. Thomas has put his name forward.

**Principal’s Report**

The pronoun Project starts tomorrow at RMS.

A friendly reminder from Chartwells, you can cancel from same site you purchased that same day if your child is absent. It needs to be done by 8 a.m. If you do not cancel your order, we pay your order forward to student who may enjoy a hot lunch.

In sports, basketball was cut short because of Covid colors of Orange and Red. Volleyball is currently in full swing. Coaches are all staff members. A huge thank you to those staff members for volunteering their time outside of their regular teaching hours. Thank you for allowing our students an outlet.

Harvey’s Studio will be returning to RMS to take pictures of students in clubs on Tuesday, April 13 at 10:30am. There are more clubs surfacing, especially to connect with students from other bubbles. There is a tracking system, masks worn the whole time, students sanitize to allow this. If you child has an idea, they need to pitch it to Mrs. Piron and together they will find a teacher to support this and supervise. Pokémon club, GSA club, puzzles club, games club, bracelet club and more! Wow, Keep up the great work Ridgeview!

**Fundraising**

Fundraiser from pizza twice and coffee went towards purchasing tables for out cafeteria – we are getting closer to meeting out goal.

Moving forward, Thomas has asked that the PSSC budget be an agenda before Christmas to discuss how this money will be spent.

**Student Safety Survey**

Students were polled on Social and Emotional safety. The data team made sense of the data and presented it to staff. To dig deeper, Ms. Aiken facilitated a student forum around safety. She took the data and sorted it into themes.

The school met to determine next steps and presented their ideas to the students. They are in the process of rolling out these initiatives to the student voice is validated and heard. This school year, the social and emotional safety was the focus for this survey.

RMS learned that students want more ability to connect with friends from other bubbles. They want to have an opportunity to connect to a staff member on a deeper level outside of the class setting. Students want more mask breaks. This was done during the Orange phase.

RMS has decided on the following roll outs:

-They have set an interschool mailing system – Tiger Talk. Mailboxes are set up outside the admin offices so that students can send interschool mail to others. Mail is delivered on a weekly basis.

-Homerooms will connect virtually beyond the student recognition ceremony. Teams can set up team meetings during class time to strengthen mini lessons, body breaks, class challenges, SEL activities etc. This will encourage relationships outside of their homeroom bubbles.

-Staff members are encouraged to pair up with other staff members so that school clubs will not be canceled. This will also ensure that there is something for everyone.

-Outside lunch rotations were switched up so class bubbles have different “neighbors” to socialize with at a distance.

-Students are happier that they are not masked up as much due to the orange and red zone. The school has come up with 5 next steps to connect with students outside of their class bubbles.

In May, the school will share the School Plan with a focus on the monitoring piece. A challenge is that there is less data points to look at due to COVID. Mrs. Pomeroy has rolled out the “Our School Survey”. RMS is waiting for the data and will share at our next meeting.

**Correspondence: NA**

**Closing Comments:**

Joanna had asked if we could have a sneak peak of the monitoring piece prior to our May 4th meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting:** May 4th at 6pm – virtually through TEAMS

**Adjournment:** Jen adjourned the meeting at 7:09pm.