

**SCHOOL NAME: Ridgeview Middle School**

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

**Parent School Support Committee**

 **Minutes**

**Date: December 1, 2020 Time: 6pm-7pm**

**Location: Virtual through Microsoft Teams**

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| **PSSC Members Present:****Jen Myshrall, Chair****Tammy Hudlin, Vice Chair****Teacher Rep. Nancy Adams****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:****Nil** |

**Call to Order:** Jen called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

**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:**

**Principal’s Report-**

Sent two messages to RMS parents/students today.

The first was concerning the Education act stating that students need to be physically present at school, and that the expectation is that students are in school. It is not the teacher’s responsibility (NBTA, NBTF) to provide work for students that are staying home due to COVID-19 concerns as Public Health deems the schools to be safe and they are open. Although there is anxiety during this time, it is the expectation that all students should continue to attend school.

**Orange phase protocol**

Students and staff must wear their mask all day inside and out. When students are working independently and silently, they can take off their mask and have a breather. Staff must continue to wear their mask, however.

Students also have a break from masks when they are eating. Students are not allowed to “snack” at this time, only at designated lunch time or during homeroom time in the morning and afternoon.

Students are no longer engaged in organized game play. Skills, drills, and practice are during outside play and Phys. Ed. School has been given the go during outside play time to class bubbles may continue to use their outside equipment baskets. This is contributing to the social wellbeing of students. Equipment is sanitized before and after use.

No mask required during physical education classes.

Music – no singing and shared instruments while in orange phase as a precaution.

Question about afternoon snack. One half of population eats at 12-12:30pm, another group at 12:30-1pm – all students can have a snack at 3:30pm during homeroom.

**Two fundraisers currently underway:**

* The Pizza Twice fundraiser - for each coupon sold, the school gets $4.00. Another 100 are on order.
* Ridgeview masks are available in both yellow and blue. We originally ordered 100 masks. 50 more blue masks have been ordered to fulfill existing orders.
* All proceeds of the fundraisers will go to buying cafeteria tables in the hopes that the cafeteria will be open for next school year. Our goal is 10 tables – we currently have 6 purchased from fundraising funds last year. Each table has a cost of approximately $1500.00.

**Clubs are still up and running with strict COVID 19 protocols, sanitization, and tracking:**

* Chess club after school with Mr. Pomeroy.
* Best Buddies Club
* GSA
* Pokémon Club
* Student Leadership Club
* Countdown to Christmas Club
* Friendship Bracelet Making Club

Mrs. Aitken has two new upcoming clubs – stay tuned for details.

The Grade 6 have been holding class meetings to discuss what clubs their students would like to see at RMS. They have been doing a great job at connecting kids based on their interests.

Nancy Adams (Teacher rep) Update: Pokémon club has taken over Beyblade club.

Joanna has offered her skills virtually with Friendship Bracelet Making Club. Joanna will connect with Vanessa Moore.

Parents, please encourage your child(ren) to get involved. If they have an idea for a club, please get them to share their ideas with a teacher to help them facilitate or lead a new club.

**Staff of the Month** was Mrs. Eastwood. She is always paying it forward and she even gave someone her VIP parking spot.

If you are not finished your Christmas list, there is RMS merchandise still available for purchase – check it out on our RMS website.

**Picture retakes** were with Harvey Studios has been postponed. RMS will not hear back until orange phase is lifted. Harvey’s will rebook when this happens. The school will find out if pictures taken before hand will be in for Christmas.

**The Student leadership** team are trying to lift spirits before we leave for the holidays. Calendar of events will be going home by the end of the week. Encourage your child(ren) to get involved.

**Parent/teacher interviews** are being booked through ‘Bookings’. Parents can select the teachers they want to meet with either virtually or phone call. It is very user friendly and receiving positive feedback so far. Interviews will be held on Thursday evening and Friday morning.

04 December - Friday afternoon - RMS staff will participate in Professional Learning around school improvement.

**School Plan –** Mrs. Piron and Mrs. Thompson met with Gina Dunnett this morning. Gina is supporting the school for supplying release time for Core Leadership members to dig deeper into that work in Jan. 2021. Due to the longer days, this will give the Core Leadership members time to work on this. We had to go back to the school plan and review to ensure the actions were realistic.

The PSSC can expect to have some school-based data to review during our PSSC meeting in February.

**Social and Emotional Learning** – through the walkthroughs, observations, and conversations, it was evident that not all teachers are ready to embed social and emotional learning into their curriculum. Staff were given a survey to rate themselves on social and emotional learning. Teachers will set a personal social and emotion goal for themselves. Administrators will provide support to strengthen their readiness.

This continuum needs to be completed by Monday, Dec. 7, along with the teacher’s goal. This task is simple but can have a huge impact on how we support one another. This will help with the teacher’s readiness. RMS is investing time and money into this action as part of the school plan.

**Outdoor spaces turning into indoor spaces** – RMS is encouraging staff and students to use the outdoor spaces as much as possible before the weather is not bearable. Currently, there are three play zones in the front and back and two on the side of the school. Two of those outdoor spaces will move inside to the gym to give students two opportunities to move inside at lunch during the lunch rotation. The outside monitor that is currently on the duty schedule will supervise the gym areas. This change does not create additional duties for teachers. This plan creates equity for all to use the gym. The gym will have two purposes to engage in social club or physical activity.

There is a possibility to move two more outside spaces inside if need be. The two spaces we are considering to use are the library and the computer lab. If we add these two spaces, it will create more duty for teachers.

**Discussion around students moving from class to class continues.** During the staff meeting today Amanda shared information from four middle schools in our district that do have their students moving from class to class – the feedback is that staff and students seem happier when students move from class to class.

RMS Staff have been surprised on how many times they must instruct students on how to properly sanitize their hands. Teachers are reporting a loss of instructional time due to the sanitizing process that they were not expecting. The spray bottles of sanitizer have also been breaking due to repetitive use and they are hard to get replaced. Amanda has encouraged her staff to talk to their friends at other middle schools to gain perspective. RMS did not conduct the revote today as planned because we are currently in the Orange Phase. If we move to the Yellow Phase the plan is to share perspectives and then revote on Wednesday, Dec. 16 during our Hump Day Huddle.

Suggestion that RMS poll a group of students for their opinion on students moving from class to class in the new year. RMS is planning on pulling some students to have conversations around this possibility in an upcoming lunch and learn – Questions will include: What challenges do you foresee with students moving from class to class? How could we proactively problem solve some of these challenges? What could be some possible positive impacts be if students were to move from class to class? Share your thoughts around students moving from class to class. We will not ask students to vote, however, we will consider their perspective. Teacher readiness must be considered as well.

A PSSC member shared her daughter’s perspective on students moving from class to class. She is struggling with the change. She does not feel as safe. She reports that the protocols are very strict, and they feel like they are always in trouble. As a student, she wishes that they were asked their thoughts before making the switch. She and her friends felt much safer with teachers moving.

Carts have arrived for teachers that move. Thank you to all the students who helped assemble and deliver the carts to teachers. Some teachers have purchased travel bags to support their travel that they will be reimbursed for. We are thankful for the support from the department.

**Provincial Assessments** George Daley, Deputy Minister for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Anglophone Sector has communicated that provincial assessments in mathematics and scientific literacy for Grades 4, 6 and 10 will be cancelled this school year in the New Brunswick Anglophone Sector. (refer to email from Superintendent David McTimoney).

Question about academics with the shutdown of schools.

Teachers have really focused on the Prioritized Curriculum for this reporting period. There are some gaps from last year, but this is typical every year not just during COVID-19. Teachers continue to do an exceptional job at meeting students where they are at academically, socially, and emotionally. Making accommodations is a common practice to support individual student learning.

Virtual bookfair numbers were down and was not as successful as RMS hoped. The school walked away with around $100. This profit will add a couple of new titles for our school library. Thank you to those who participated.

There will be a communication from Mrs. Piron tomorrow promoting Operation – Gift Card Blitz. This initiative is to help meet the needs of struggling families in our community. Staff and students will be asked to contribute a gift card or a monetary donation if they are able to do so.

Best Buddies Club are doing their part to contribute to this initiative. Staff have donated new goods for the students to buy for their families. They will create a virtual shopping channel next week to show the products students can buy for their friends or family. All gifts will range from 2-5 dollars.

**Ring the Bell** campaign is mental health campaign underway at RMS. Mr. Powell will be visiting every class this week. His presentation is about stress and stress management. As a school, students will meet virtually on Thursday, December 3 at 3:30pm. The meeting will be led by Mr. Powell. He will continue to create awareness around the Ring a Bell Campaign. Staff and students will make some noise (drumming on their desk) to show our support. Teachers have been provided resources to share with their students during homeroom to continue to the learning.

**Correspondence: NA**

**Closing Comments:**

**Date of Next Meeting:** February 2, 2021. M. Bragg will be the Teacher Rep attending the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Jen adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.