**Ridgeview Middle School**

**Parent School Support Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date: January 11, 2022 Time: 6-7pm**

**Location: virtual (via Teams)**

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| **PSSC Members Present:**  **Tammy Hudlin, Chair**  **Joanna Desormeaux, Vice-Chair**  **Others:**  **Brandi Cameron**  **Véronique Fournier**  **PSSC Members Regrets:**  **Erynn Dreaddy-Bailey**  **Anita Paget**  **Vernica Dulic**  **Yan-Philip Cote-Baribeau**  **Wanda Rosene**  **Melanie Hartt, Secretary** | **School/DEC Representation Present:**  **Amanda Piron, Principal**  **Trish Hanscomb, Teacher Rep**  **School/DEC Representation Present:**  **Thomas Geburt** |

**Call to Order:** Tammy called the meeting to order at 6:10pm

**Agenda:** Principal’s Updates

* + Update on School Surveys
  + Share results from staff MFRI (Mental Fitness and Resiliency Inventory) Survey
  + Review of Jan. Newsletter – highlights
  + Grade 8 FI – lunch proposal – effective upon return to school
  + Winter Plan – impacts on RMS
  + At Home Learning – Face-to-Face Learning

**Approval of the Agenda**: Approval of the agenda was done via email prior to the meeting.

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Approval of the minutes was done via email prior to the meeting.

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Update on School Surveys:**

Amanda received the results back from the Teacher Perception Survey today. Upon first glance of the Comparison Report, RMS is above the majority of comparison columns which is reassuring. The Core Leadership Team will review the results and plan for next steps during our meeting next Tuesday, Jan. 18. Amanda will share more once she has shared the results with her staff.

Student Perception Survey – John Pomeroy rolled out the survey with students before Christmas. The majority of students have completed the survey. The survey data on the website tells me we got 317 of 339 students for a completion rate of 93.51%. We would never get 100% because there are a number of students that would not be able to complete the survey. Before Christmas the survey deadline was extended to Jan. 14, 2022.

MFRI – It was the expectation that all schools and districts complete the MFRI survey before the end of November 2021 with their staff. This was the first time RMS has engaged in this survey. We were pleased with the results. The MFRI is composed of 8 different measures related to mental fitness and resiliency practices. Our results indicate that we have a positive progression in the use of mental fitness and resiliency practices in the workplace. In the category Relatedness the data shows that this practice is embedded – indicate evidence of an optimized workplace environment contributing to wellbeing, engagement, and enhanced team functioning. For the last two years our School Plan has focused on building connections and fostering positive relationships through social and emotional learning. We are pleased that this work has contributed to the data that shows are work is having an impact on students and staff. Our Core Leadership Team will begin looking at next steps to move our practices from building to embedded.

Schools have the option to complete this survey annually or multiple times throughout the year to monitor and measure impact of their work.

The data from all surveys will help us build our School Plan for 2022-2023.

**Review of January Newsletter 2022**

Amanda reviewed the highlights and encouraged families to read the Newsletter to stay connected. Johanna likes the What We Are Learning Component on the back of the Newsletter, however, she said that some of the language is confusing. Amanda encouraged parents and guardians to ask their child what it means as they are the ones learning the concepts/outcomes being shared. This is a great opportunity for your child/ren to share their learning. If parents/guardians need further explanation or clarification, please reach out to the specific teacher.

**Grade 8 FI Lunch Proposal:**

Our grade 8 FI class of 12 students put forth good arguments to have their lunch time adjusted to go outside with the grade 8 Prime classes. The change will allow them to socialize with other peer their age and build relationships before transitioning to OHS where the late FI class will no longer be a cohort. This change will be in effect upon return to school.

**EECD Winter Plan:**

Amanda reviewed the Winter Plan outlined by EECD and focused on the major changes that will impact RMS. Once we have a confirmed date of return to school Amanda will communicate these changes/additional safety measures with families. She will meet with all staff and students upon return virtually to share the expectations. Staff are expected to teach, model, and reinforce these expectations. We understand that with tighter restrictions come challenges, but we are committed to keeping our community healthy and safe.

**Tighter Covid Restrictions:**

RMS staff and students will be masked at all times (inside and outside) unless they are seated to eat and or drink during specified times in the schedule – homeroom, nutrition break and Lunch. They may drink at any time. We need families to ensure that students come to school with a water bottle and multiple clean masks. We do have disposable masks available at the Main Office should they need one.

\*Schools had the autonomy to choose to bubble students and assign classes to specific play areas (unmasked) or allow students to interact with all peers in all play spaces (masked). We had multiple conversations as a staff over a two-week period where we weighed the pros and cons of each option. In the best interest of our learners the super majority voted for wearing masks at all times to meet the social and emotional wellbeing needs of our students.

Staff are requesting N95 masks. We are waiting for an update from District to see if these will be provided to staff.

Everyone must sanitize upon entering the building and any specific space in our school. There is sanitizer located at every entry.

Social Distancing must be maintained while waiting in the cafeteria line. Footprint markers will be installed on the floor to act as a reminder to follow the guidelines of 2 meters or 6 feet.

Students will not be permitted to go into the Main Office as it is a small space. They will wait at the door while respecting social distancing and an Admin Assistant will greet them and ask how they can help.

Sports and extracurricular activities have been put on hold while engaged in At Home Learning.

Upon return to school students under 12 are not permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities until further notice from Public Health. All students who are eligible to be vaccinated (12 and over) must be double vaccinated and show proof to participate. Contact tracking for all extracurricular activities is expected.

**At Home Learning/Face-to-Face Learning – Jan. 11-21, 2022**

Amanda is very transparent and communicates with staff and families in a timely manner. Oftentimes staff hear announcements at the same time the public does.

Loaner devices have been provided to all RMS families that don’t have access to a device to support online learning.

Assistive technology has been picked up by families that have children with assigned tech to support their learning.

A mi-fi stick has been provided to family with no internet access to support online learning from home.

Some students have requested a work package to support their learning from home. Packages have been provided to those students.

Staff were nervous about the face-to-face component and balancing supporting student in school and teaching online. Our ESST collaborated with the teaching staff and invited in approximately 40 students based on the categories outline by district. Of the 40 invites, 18 have confirmed their attendance for face-to-face learning. Amanda attended many classes both in person and online and things went well. Our ESST provided support as needed. When Amanda greeted the students who were invited for face-to-face learning in the morning, they were less than impressed. When she met them on duty at lunch they were in much better spirits and comment on their positive learning experience at school. All students that are attending face-to-face learning have one on one support from an adult and work directly with their respective teachers throughout the day. We will continue to accommodate staff and student needs.

All students are expected to be engaged in school. The expectation is that learning is continuous and meaningful. New material will be taught and there will be assessments for learning. Attendance will be taken during homeroom and every period. These expectations were communicated with families on Friday, Jan. 7 along with the RMS Schedule that has been revised based on feedback from staff, students, and families to ensure there is a balance between online instruction and time to complete work and receive support. RMS is following our regularly scheduled day and transportation is running as normal.

Students who typically receive guidance support will receive counselling/check ins via phone with Ms. Mostowy. If they are involved in a group intervention, they will receive a Teams invite. We want to ensure that all services are provided from a distance like they would receive if they would be in school to ensure continuity and safety. Teachers are asked to reach out to students that may not be attending to check in and provide support. We want to meet each of our learners where they are at.

Trish engaged in online teaching for the first time. She was nervous but pleased with how it went. She shared that the attendance was on par for what she would expect in school and that students were engaged and participating in learning. She commented that she would like to see more students turn on their camera. Johanna shared that for some kids seeing many cameras on can be distracting. Trish shared that that there are even less students on camera in the morning, she thinks due to not physically looking their best so early. Tammy shared a suggestion to use the Together Mode as an option. We also discussed implementing a class challenge for video camera usage during online learning. Amanda also commented that some students choose to turn off their cameras when the recording of the instruction begins.

Amanda noted that there has been an immense amount of growth through collaboration of staff and students and their knowledge on how to use the functions on Teams. The teaching and instruction get better every single time. She is proud of her staff, students, and families for their wiliness to try new things, their support, and their patience. We are committed to doing our best to support our students and families.

EECD will reevaluate the week of Jan. 17 and communicate their plan with the public.

**Correspondence:** N/A

**Closing Comments:** We will continue to meet as a PSSC virtually.Amanda will check in with Anita, Wanda, and Erynn to see if they are still interested in serving on the PSSC.

**Date of Next Meeting:** February 1, 2022

**Adjournment:** Tammy adjourned meeting at 7:02pm.