

# River Valley Middle School PSSC

Agenda - February 26, 2019 @ 6:30 PM

1. Welcome
2. Approval of minutes from October 2018
  1. Motioned by Dan, Seconded by Cathy Fawcett, Passed
3. Discussion Points
  - A. Parent Teacher Conference Capacity (C. Fawcett)
    - A. Has to be 5 hours. 6 appointments per hour. 30 per teacher, but they teach 100-110 kids. Only 1 team was at capacity. The teachers stayed an additional 3 days to meet with parents. Amount of time available is dictated by the district. Online communication possible? Split up teachers rather than all together? Teachers prefer all together. Contact ahead of time especially if there are no issues. Maybe just move the open house to a few weeks later. PSSC made suggestion to move it later.
  - B. Brilliant Labs (K. Hawkes)
    - A. What is it? Why aren't we using it more?
      - A. Project about 5 years ago. Outside funding to build a maker space. Added \$5,000 - \$6,000 of school funding to dismantle library and make classroom libraries. Brilliant labs put tons of

money into it. First 2 years there was supplementary funding. They started in high schools. The idea was that you put kids in a room with lots of stuff and they get creative. Brilliant Labs has cut funding way back. The biggest issue is time. There is space, but Mr. Vincent has other stuff (i.e. curriculum). Now there are a few blocks where he can do enrichment. They are not always in that space, but he will often do so. Usually in the spring he will try to get all the grade 8's in there. But it depends on if he was able to cover all the tech ed first. No additional funding, nor enough time is the biggest issues.

- A. Could we have a SUB teacher do so on a volunteer basis for ASAP?
  - A. Yes, or we could have a sub take Leroy's classes and he could go up there with them.
  - B. Could be a part of ASAP. Could be a volunteer, but there needs to be a staff member there anyway.
  - C. Mrs. McGrath will get a hold of Jeff Wilson to see if parents can do anything to get it moving again.
  - D. Focus is usually for Grade 8's, but also grade 7's who show keen interest and ability.

E. In past, classes would get roughly 4-6 weeks for an hour at a time.

C. Ski Club Process/Capacity (D. Coleman)

A. Total capacity filled in 1 ½ days. Need 34 kids to pay for the bus. 9 on the waiting list this year. Optimum cost \$750 per night. School bus \$450. If school bus is pulled elsewhere, then we have no bus. First year to have a waiting list.

A. Collaboration with other schools?

A. No other schools in the area go at the right time. Maybe join with Barnhill?

B. Sign up now with deposit?

A. September?

B. Perhaps a parent would be able to drive?

C. Give prior members first dibs?

D. Teacher Perception Survey Data

A. How teachers perceive our school.

B. Effective Instructional Practice...

A. It was a low point for two reasons

A. Never, Sometimes, Usually, Always type of scale.

B. Also, they keep changing everything, so teachers don't feel confident

C. Positive school environment

A. A lot going for this school

A. Field, Rink, Workout room, ASAP

E. Nutrition Policy Changes

- A. Only real changes are chocolate milk and 100% juice. Can have celebrations a limited number of times throughout the year.
  - A. Next year they will likely set the number of celebrations.
- F. Computers
  - A. Every 4 or 5 years, they replace all of the computers. All of the old ones are being set up in the front room as a second computer lab.
- G. High School Readiness Program
  - A. A few grants given to staff for particular programs. Being used to teach scheduling, organization and preparation, etc.
- H. School Improvement Plan
  - A. Plan is currently in draft.
  - B. Picked two things to work on specifically
    - A. Engagement
      - A. Teaching kids that making mistakes is how you learn. Grit and resiliency
      - B. Possibly going to go through a book as a staff on how to instill grit and resiliency in your culture as a school.
    - B. Assessment
      - A. Being more specific in reporting and helping students understand why they got the grade they did and where to work specifically.
      - B. Increase confidence in teachers for giving grades
- I. High School Registration

- A. 69% of students selected Harbour View. That's pretty normal. Harbour View is our zoned school. Draw is this Friday.
- J. Preliminary Numbers for 2019/2020 and Staffing Process
  - A. Currently at 316 students.
  - B. Next year will be 318.
  - C. 114 incoming grade 6's. 112 outgoing grade 8's
  - D. Probably 15 home rooms.
  - E. Will be a  $\frac{7}{8}$  split class. Probably not any more split classes.
- K. PSSC has \$778.55
  - A. Classroom Libraries Motioned by Krista Fawkes, Seconded by Dan Pusey
    - A. Passed
    - B. Call out to parents for books.
- L. Book fair the week of parent teacher conferences, probably in this room. Looking for parent volunteers. Night of the 4th and the morning of the 5th. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday book fair.
- M. Pink Day?
  - A. There was confusion as to the date. No communication from district. It will be done in March. Probably around the 28th or 29th at a pep rally.
  - B. We missed teacher appreciation day.

A. Suggested by Mrs. McGrath to do it around parent/teacher conference because that's a stressful time for teachers.

A. 32 staff members.

4. Future discussion/action items

1. Actual outdoor rink. Could the PSSC sign off on a letter supporting it?

5. Adjournment