**River Valley Middle School PSSC**

Agenda - March 25, 2019 @ 6:30 PM

1. Welcome - 6:32
2. Approval of minutes from February
   1. Motion by Cathy Fawcett.
   2. Approved
3. Discussion points
   1. Grade 6 Provincial Exam results from June 2018
      1. Used to have exams for different years, now it’s just grade 6
      2. Also used to be individual marks, no longer.
         1. Percentages are what percentage of kids got appropriate or above.
      3. Change in math 2015/2016 - 2016/2017 are largely a result of the change in test.
         1. Students who are modified in certain subjects are exempt from the test. Students who have PLP may have extra time or additional options available.
         2. Math at RVMC is done largely by outcome, not by “passing a test.”
         3. Question was posed as to what the district is doing to increase math and science performance.
            1. We have math mentors.
            2. Biggest issue is that students do not have number sense. Aren’t able to add, subtract, multiply and divide.
         4. Science:
            1. Some of it is simply the order of information taught and the kids just forgot what they learned in September.
            2. Also asking more complex, problem solving questions, requiring scientific method.
            3. Science is no longer a study subject for k-8, it is discovery based. Testing questions that require concrete knowledge are not easily addressed in a discovery based teaching method.
         5. No longer any higher grade provincial exams other than English language proficiency exam.
         6. Overall system problem is that kids are being taught for 9 years that they cannot fail and that if they don’t learn, that nothing really will be done. Then in high school, they suddenly have to learn to pass. It requires students to be intrinsically motivated for 9 years before hitting high school.
         7. Nationally, we are the only province with inclusion and the only bi-lingual province. These do make teaching towards the test more difficult and skew the numbers a bit.
   2. Tell Them From Me Survey Results
      1. Most bullying is primarily after school. Large amounts of it are at the rink or Friday night youth group.
      2. Pep rally coming up.
      3. There is a disconnect in students between what they are doing and what bullying is.
   3. Spring Symposium
      1. Dan forgot to mention it last week.
      2. Registration is due on Saturday.
   4. Finance update on PSSC budget ($775.20)
      1. 4 classroom libraries covered.
      2. Mrs. McGrath will mention it in her weekly message to parents.
   5. Book fair
      1. Going to fill other slots will teachers. Student leaders will also be there for each shift.
4. Grade 8 trip?
   1. Some families haven’t paid. Announcements going out because potentially a third bus will be needed.
   2. Does the school provide assistance to families that need it?
      1. In the past, if possible it has been provided to some if it was available. Currently, we don’t know what will be available or if it will be needed.
5. How do we have an opinion on the Cashless schools system that is taking 4% of every transaction (and the district is paying an additional 3%)?
   1. Contact the DEC, Rob Fowler.
6. School pictures.
   1. Flewelling does great. Can we ask them for the same sheet that Lifetouch offers? Mrs. McGrath will ask them.
7. What happens at the Grade 8 Cabaret?
   1. IT’S NOT A PROM!!!
   2. Families arrive at about 5:30
   3. At 6:30, doors open, and dinner is served.
      1. A nice meal
   4. After that, there’s a year end video.
      1. It’s long. All of the kids are featured.
   5. After the video, parents are kicked out and they have a short dance.
   6. 9:00 - 9:30, it’s over and everyone goes home...except staff, because they have to get the gym ready for the awards ceremony the next day.
8. Short discussion regarding dress code.
9. Future discussion/action items
   1. Canstruction? Hoping to announce at the Pep Rally.
10. Adjournment - 8:36