**PSSC minutes for meeting November 6, 2014**

Meeting was called to order by Bernie Regenbogen at 7pm.

**Members Present:**

Bernie Regenbogen

Terence Sullivan

Michael Whelton

John Frost

Leo O’Hara

Karen Kennedy

Neil Bauman

Emily English

Catherine Derry

**Regrets:**

Michael Wills

Cara Miller

Lorianne Whitaker

**Business:**

Call to order- 7:03 Bernie

Introductions of Neil Baumen

Reviewed minutes from last meeting. . Corrections on minutes- Melody and Neil absent . John Frost motioned to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Leo O’Hara

Add discussion on EA and PSSC budget $782.00 . Cara suggested adding to agenda for possible uses. Michael said the school will take direction from PSSC on funds but added school connects will be continued if school funds need to be used. This is our primary communication tool from school to home.

Bernie - introduced letter to Zoe re: EA's

Bernie Regenbogen’ discussed a letter that was co-developed on behalf of the PSSC to Superintendent Zoe Watson with respect to the topic of Education Assistants. The letter is below. After a lengthy discussion amongst members, PSSC agreed to wait until a response from Ms. Watson to discuss further at our next meeting.

- Neil Bauman asked about the % of students and percentage of EA's –and asked about possible audit. Bernie clarified SEP's versus EA needs an d Michael added that school provided student and class profile to District for review.

The concern of loud music on sports fiels was raised and Michael explained that he investigated this with Facilities and learned through SJ Recreation that Community Football had their season ending event on the night of loud music. Karen Kennedy mentioned that in general some parents would like to volunteer but do not know or have the opportunity to engage in school vo,unteer activities. Michael explained that the role of Home and School is the venue for this type of further engagement. A Concern was also raised about elementary students attending the Middle School retro Bill assembly. Michael explained it was not the idealsituation but the presentation was appropriate for all ages.

Dec 4th meeting 7pm

 November 4 2014

Zoe Watson, Superintendent

Anglophone South School District

Dear Zoe,

At our last meeting of the PSSC for MNS, the topic of Educational Assistants was discussed. One of our EA’s had recently been transferred to another school reducing our number of EA’s from 6 to 5. This prompted a great deal of concern from the members of the committee, and I was asked to communicate this to you in writing.

In our school, we have slightly more than 400 students. At any given time, there are approximately 15% of those students on some form of modified curriculum. As well we have a number of students who require one on one attention from start to finish each day. Quite honestly, 6 EA’s barely got the job done. Also, one of the remaining 5 EA’s spends most of their time relieving the others for breaks and lunch, to meet contract requirements, which means there are only 4 EA’s who actually deliver programs.

We acknowledge the budget considerations that go into the overall allocation of EA’s to the district. We have a relatively large student population, and our school draws on a large geographical area creating a substantial diversity in the requirements of students idering the shift towards a policy of total inclusion, this creates a great deal of strain on the teaching resources. Having had an opportunity to sit in on a portion of the School Review process, I have a much greater appreciation of the challenges that our teachers face. Given these facts, it is an absolute necessity to have qualified assistants to help the teachers to not only deliver the curriculum, but to manage today’s complicated classroom scenarios.

In order to, not tax our EA resources further, assist our teachers in delivering the curriculum and provide our children with the best educational experience possible, we respectfully request that you consider returning the EA to our school.

Sincerely,

Bernie Regenbogen