

MARSHVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PSSC
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 20, 2017 @ 6:30pm

1. Attendance & Regrets

Jackie Jacob-Vogels, Marjorie Doherty, Michelle Folkins (DEC rep), Rachelle Kingsler, Michelle Lloyd, Ruth Donald (Principal)

Regrets: Gordie Kline (VP), Andrew Wilson, Maria Beltz (Staff Liaison), Barb Clayton

2. Approval of Agenda & January 30, 2017 Minutes

Update: BBT Lab in full swing. Are able to do three areas at once, cooking, woodworking and coding (computers). Allergies are being considered for the cooking portion. Microwaves: All four are now in use. Three in cafeteria and one in "The Place". Looking at adding two more: One in cafeteria and one in staff room. Feasibility study is being done by Ernst and Young. Once it is done the DEC will make a suggestion /decision as to what to do with the schools in Sackville then it is sent for approval with the government. Process takes 3-7 years.

3. Student Wellness Survey

Nothing came of extra questions asked on latest survey. Possibly was last year's grade 8 that had negative results and are at Tantramar now. Suggested that perhaps some kids were fooling around with the survey answers. EllieMae Paynter did her own survey and no negative results came of that also. Ruth is in talks with Roxanne Paquette, Provincial Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program Coordinator, to come and do a talk with the students. Also, suggested that Ruth contact the other local schools to make them aware that Roxanne was invited to come and perhaps they would like her to talk with their schools as well.

4. Grant for enhancement of school

Barb not here tonight. Ruth will meet with her and discuss at next PSSC meeting

5. Flag Issue

Quick overview of incident. Ruth Donald and Sharon Bordage attended a diversity conference last May and saw the need to start a "Diversity club" at the school. The start of this was delayed till mid-winter. Ruth approached Sharon in early March about getting it started, Sharon put up a rainbow flag in her room. Apparently a complaint came into District Office about the flag (not through Ruth, she was absent that day) and the VP removed the flag from the room, in front of a classroom of students. The students in the room, as well as many grade 7 & 8 disapproved of this and stood up to return the flag.

Discussion at PSSC was that this situation could have been handled much differently.

1. Flag NOT taken down at all based on one person's complaint.
2. Or if the flag really had to be taken down do it at recess, lunch or after school.
This situation was discussed with staff during recess of the next day.
3. A missed opportunity to educate the kids on diversity and acceptance and to introduce the "diversity club".
4. No information came home to parents about the incident; only info parents had was what they read on social media. How are the parents to discuss with their kids about incident if they don't know what is going on?

Ruth is going to discuss with District on how the situation should have been handled. It was agreed that the lack of information from the school on this very touchy incident was very disconcerting. The incident may have left students feeling that the VP is not approachable. It was felt that the perception could be that by the school not acknowledging the situation it might actually feel it was acceptable.

Flags is now back in the classroom and one (handmade by students) in almost every classroom. The Diversity Club is expected to be running before the end of this school year.

6. Documents sent home from School—Jackie Jacob-Vogels

Jackie has noticed that many documents (monthly newsletters from homerooms) are coming home from school full of spelling and grammatical errors. Ruth will remind teacher's to pay more attention to detail and to have someone proof read their newsletters if necessary.

7. Grade 8-year end

Jennifer Whitmore and Michelle Lloyd have volunteered to head the year end committee. The date has been set for the Grade 8 graduation/banquet—June 21. Budget is \$500 + cost of DJ. It was suggested to discuss with volunteers from past couple of years as to what they did. Also, suggested to check to see if stage may need a retouch on paint (it was done a couple years ago)

8. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

NEXT MEETING was not set; Ruth will send an email.