

## **Riverview Community Of Schools – Joint PSSC Meeting**

**Location: Riverview High School**

**March 21, 2019 6:30pm**

### **Overview**

- ❖ **Welcome** – Harry Doyle DEC representative
- ❖ **Objective** – Jonathan Godbout – Discuss ways we can successfully promote and engage community involvement in our schools.
- ❖ **PSSC Roundtable** – A representative from each school shared a success story of an event that engaged students, parents and community members.
- ❖ **PSSC Brainstorming** – Small groups discussed ways to further engage students, parents and the community.
- ❖ **Closing** – Thank you to everyone for attending. Our intention was to bring our committees together to share success stories and brainstorm new ways of engaging parents. Student achievement improves when parents play an active role in their children’s education. Parent engagement is a key factor in the enhancement of student achievement and well-being.

### **Frank L Frank L Bowser K-5**

**Special Event** – FLB Wellness Night – promoting mental fitness and physical health

**Overview:** In a PSSC survey, sent out in the spring of 2018, parents asked for more information about student wellness. A Wellness Night was created for FLB families to showcase wellness strategies being taught at school and provide this information to parents to encourage reinforcement and conversations at home. Seven stations/poster displays were created. Stations included: Sleep - video/activities, Brain Breaks, Nutrition, Mindfulness, Zones Of Regulation and Community Partners (Kids Have Stress Too Parent Seminar Sign Up). The evening followed the CAR model (psychological needs of Competence, Autonomy, Relatedness). **Competence:** show what you know; show how you grow (learn one new thing tonight). **Autonomy:** options for the experience (“Tonight is What You Make it!” page) **Relatedness:** Time with family and connecting with school personnel, peers and environment. Communication for the event included student invitations, a newsletter reminder and school connects messages. There were daily morning messages for students at school and a follow up message after the event. Students participated in a “Mock Wellness Event” earlier in the week (similar to a school-wide field day). This prepared students for the student-led FLB Wellness Night. An estimated 1/3 of FLB families attended the evening and gave very positive feedback about the event. FLB will build on the success of this event for next year.

### **Caledonia Regional High School 6-12**

**Special Event** – Albert County Fair

**Overview:** Caledonia’s student population is broad and diverse. Students come from different communities and many travel distances to get to school. The most successful engagement event Caledonia High is involved in is the four-day Albert County Fair. The success of this event is built from a long tradition of school involvement in the fair and community partnerships. The fair happens during the second week of September. It is a great way to kick off the school year for everyone in the community. Because of the number of events throughout the four days, there are many opportunities for students and their families to be involved. The entire graduate class

(40 students) were involved in several aspects of the fair – from washing dishes, to serving meals to donating pickles and pies. Caledonia High values staff, student, parents, volunteers and communities. This event is a fun way for everyone to be involved and students to have a positive, visible presence within the community. People of all ages help – young families, grandparents, aunts, uncles and students. Based on the number of meals sold, money is donated and divided among the grad students to help pay for hoodies, yearbooks and other grad year expenses – through school cash. Students learn to recognize that the more effort they put in to helping, the more they get out of it.

### **Riverview East School K-8**

**Special Events** – Active Home and School, Guest Speaker Nights and Night Of The Arts

**Overview:** Riverview East School is a growing school with a strong and active Home and School. Parents have been actively engaged since its opening. One area of success for the RES Home and School has been inviting guest speakers into the school for evening information sessions on topics of interest. Topics have included – addictions, tobacco, narcotics, technology and internet safety. Another wonderful event that promotes community engagement at RES is The Night Of The Arts. This is an evening celebration of the many great things happening within the school. On this night, the school choir sings, there is a drama presentation and students have art pieces up for auction. Donations made support art programs at the school.

### **Claude D. Taylor School K-5**

**Special Events** – Home and School, Guest Speaker Nights, Night Of The Arts

**Overview:** Night Of The Arts, Spring Fling, Fall Fair, Movie Night, Home and School  
Claude D. Taylor has a strong and active Home and School. CDT has developed a few events that have proven to be successful in engaging students and families. One event many look forward to is The Night Of The Arts. This is a night where students and parents are invited into the school to walk the hallways and view their child's two favourite art pieces. These art pieces are 'for sale'. Students, parents and grandparents often attend this night. Donations given to purchase the art pieces are put back into art programs at the school. The Spring Fling is another popular fundraiser for the school. Students and families can participate in a fair style morning that includes games, bouncy castles and snacks. Movie Night is a popular event. CDT hosts three movies throughout the school year – fall, winter and spring. The school purchases the movie – students and parents come to the school to watch a movie together.

### **West Riverview School**

**Special Events** – Movie Night, Art Show and Fun Zone

West Riverview has been hosting Movie Night for four years now. It is a fun fundraiser that happens a few times each year and brings people into the school outside of regular school hours. There are mats for seating available for students/families and snacks. Another wonderful evening of engagement for the West Riverview School community is the Art Show. At this event there is a student drama performance, a choir performance, poets share their pieces and writers share their work. This event also brings many into the school. Another area of success has been the Wellness Fun Zone. This is a place developed by parents to give students a safe place for breaks. This area has computers, crafts, a hockey table and other items of interest for students. There is also a Green Zone – for students that offers mindfulness and yoga activities.

## **Riverview Middle School**

**Overview:** Special Events – Drama Production, Coffee House and Learning Centre  
Parent Teacher – RMS traditionally has a good turnout for parent teacher meetings. Teaching teams set up meetings in the gym and cafeteria. Teachers are now using Fresh Grade to help parents be informed on a regular basis.

Coffee House – RMS hosts a night of musical entertainment that draws many students and family members to the school for an evening that highlights the talents within the school community.

In the fall, nine students worked on project-based learning through a young entrepreneurs project. More than 800 people came to the gymnasium to see the students projects (500 students, 300 parents/community members). A profit and percentage of sales went to charity. RMS recognized this as an area of great opportunity to bring more people into the building. Over the course of the last four months, grades 6 and 7 students (more than 250 students) at Riverview Middle School have worked together in groups to plan, create and now promote their own businesses. Everything from colourful stress balls to weaved toys will be available. Teachers, staff and students are excited to invite everyone from the school and community on May 6<sup>th</sup> to the gym. 10% of everyone's profits will be donated to a charity (SPCA, Make A Wish, IWK).

## **Riverview High School**

**Overview:** Friends Of Royals, Engineering Brightness, Access to Schools

Friends Of Royals – Five Bridges hosts an evening event where a percentage of food sales goes back into the RHS community towards technology.

Engineering Brightness – Solar powered light was developed by students and distributed to other communities in need across the globe.

Information taken from a Wellness Survey has found that 10-15% of students aren't involved in activities after school. RHS is meeting with community partners to outline a strategy to engage these students. Community members want to help address the ongoing/growing issue of substance abuse among high school students or at risk students. RHS has identified several schools within the community that are open and empty each night. These estimated 4 -10 buildings have art rooms, computer labs and other opportunities. Partners are looking for cost effective ways to engage children - where money isn't a barrier for participation to access these opportunities. Community members want to consider possible activities for students when a school is closed. The end goal would be that kids and communities would work together – and become a community norm – like youth centers of the past.

## **Round Table Discussion Summary – How To Engage New Volunteers**

- Host a community BBQ
- Organize a Multicultural Night/Fair/Events - MAGMA involvement
- Organize a community Remembrance Day assembly – hold at the school, involve the Legion and involved First Responders
- Plan a History Night/Heritage Fair
- Host an Exhibition/Fair
- Host a Career Fair
- Meet The Teacher
- Offer an Interest Fair (discovering strengths and passions)
- Provide CPR training for parents and kids together

- Host guest speakers at school (offer games to occupy students)
- Organize a Christmas Gift Mart
- Athletics – approach individuals with a coaching skill set
- Chilli Bar
- Movie Night
- Wellness Night
- PSSC – inform parents of what the roles and responsibilities are so they are less intimidated
- Remember – the best way to get people involved is through a one to one invitation
- The more students are involved, the more likely parents will get involved
- Canvas parents for unique skill sets that could be used at school
- Encourage parents to be involved, have ownership and feel that they are making a difference in the lives of their children
- Value of Community – the importance of involvement to our youth moving forward

### **Barriers to Community Involvement**

- Busy lifestyles
- Distance from the school
- Large group of families within walking distance to the school still do not make efforts to attend events
- Negative Attitudes
- Childcare for parents who want to participate but can't bring children/don't have childcare
- Preparing for events – an event that has a small percentage of people show up – becomes a bit of a risk