

SES PSSC 2016/2017

Meeting Minutes – Nov. 1, 2016

In Attendance:

Doug Bobbitt, Mike Lamper, Jennifer MacKay, Amy Dow, Erica Foster, Lenora Murray, Natasha Munford, Jodi Ravn (recorder of minutes for Nov. 1), Mary McNair, Judy Freeze, Julie Strang, Rob Alexander (DEC member)

1. PSSC Role overview/confidentiality

- Handbook distributed
- Primary role of committee is to advise on whole-school policy, district policy and provide communication to parents and communities. Issues discussed at the meetings are to remain at school-level or higher and not focus on individual teacher/student/parent-level of discussion. Any mention of individuals is to remain confidential out-of-respect for privacy.

2. PSSC Membership form

- Updated by all members in attendance and returned to Doug. Doug will forward to the district.

3. PSSC Budget - \$1,106.40

- Must be related to communication.
- Possibilities for budget use: speaker series with parents as target audience suggested by Mary. As an extension to that, mental wellness symposium – suggested by Rob based on what he has heard from Saint John area schools.
- Synervoice – Lenora suggested Doug add teachers to the message so they are aware of the communication going to parents. Doug will do this for all future messages.
- District has mandated use of Synervoice for all schools in the district.

4. Selection of Chairperson and meeting minutes recorder

- Amy Dow – PSSC Chair for two-year term in by acclamation
- Each meeting Doug will bring his laptop to allow for the minute recorder to take minutes digitally. A minute recorder will be appointed from attendees each meeting.

5. School Supply Fees K-2

- Will table full discussion of school supplies for K-2 until February or March
- This school year is the first without complaint to the office over the process of central purchase of supplies for K-2 students by the school with a fee paid by a parent/guardian. It is the second year of the process.

- Doug will provide data on number of parents not paid to determine how to move forward for the next school year. Questions to consider: Is the number of unpaid supply fees significant? Should the school continue with central purchase of supplies or return to individual student purchase of supplies by parent/guardian for 2017/2018 school year?

6. Everyone at their best – 10yr. provincial education plan

- **Year 1 & 2 Initiatives**
 - **Numeracy, Literacy**
 - **Grade 1 FI entry**
- Doug explained that over the past 1.5 years, the Department of Education consulted with teachers, schools, researchers, and parents to create a 10-Year plan for education.
- Each of 9 objectives within the plan were summarized by a PSSC member for the rest of the attendees.
- Objective 7 – Doug spoke of initial value demonstrated in the early days of roll-out of Integrated Service Delivery for improvement of mental health for students and families in the Hampton Education Centre and across the district. SES did lose 0.1 Guidance as a result of the new model, but referrals to the ISD are intended to be more streamlined than the past model of contacting various departments individually.
- Grade 1 FI – beginning in NB in 2017/2018 school year – grade 3 entry will be removed for current Kindergarten students. Literacy skill development will be the focus of early grade 1 FI as it is in grade 1 English stream.

7. SES School Improvement Plan

- Distributed for home reading.
- Will be discussed at next PSSC meeting.

8. Grade 2 provincial reading comprehension results

- 83% - of SES students for 2015/2016 **reading at appropriate level or above** (R4 – R8). School District: 75.9%; Province: 73.8%
- Question from Mary McNair: Why the fluctuation across the years (67% in 2010/2011, 88% in 2011/2012, 73% in 2012/2013, 90% in 2013/2014, 72% in 2014/2015, 83% in 2015/2016)?
- Answer: Doug feels strongly that it is linked to school-wide initiatives and focus on literacy. High focus on specific reading strategies in 2011/2012 – PLC training for teachers – 90% of students at or above level. Teachers and administration feel yearly focus on strategies will ensure continuity of results. In the years when teaching teams have focused on explicit strategy instruction, student achievement has demonstrated high performance results.

- From Doug: Kim Bower, Literacy Consultant at Department outlined this fall that literacy interventionists will focus on students performing at R3 to ensure they reach.
- Grade 2 – teachers will collect reading data monthly instead of for each report card for students performing at R3 to support intervention efforts.

9. Attendance Policy

- Doug will e-mail the link to the policy to all members
- Anyone wishing to discuss will request the item be added to next meeting's agenda

10.PSSC 2016-17 Goals

All suggested goals will be considered in full by the committee at the next meeting. A final decision on the focus of the year's goals will be made at the December meeting with the creation of sub-committee's if necessary.

- **SES Homework policy**
 - Doug suggests that the committee considers the adoption of a homework policy in consultation with parents, teachers and administration.
 - Doug will research current homework practice specifics for each teacher/grade in the school and will share at the next meeting.
- **Speech Language Pathology Needs**
 - Lenora indicates the increasing need for SLP services at the school. Students that struggle to communicate orally, struggle with all literacy skill development. With the integration of SLP services into the Department of Education two years ago, the access to SLP time is too limited for current clientele. Suggests the topic as a possible goal for PSSC action. Types of possible action on the part of the PSSC will be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Parent Symposium**
 - See agenda item #3 for further details. Explore possibility to partner with area schools to host a symposium. Possible topics: mental wellness, nutrition, other?

11.December 6, January 10, February 7, April 4, May 9 Meeting Dates

- 7pm start for all future meetings

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.