Rothesay Elementary School

Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) 2015/16

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, March 1, 2016

1. Meeting Called to order at 6:34 PM

Members Present: Charlene Carroll (Principal RES), Wendy Romeo (Co-Chairperson), Kim MacDonald (Co-Chairperson), Amanda Higgins (Secretary), Jonathon Kierstead (faculty representative) and April Vincent (Vice Principal RES).

Members Absent: Glenda Munro (community and parent representative), Natalie McClune (parent representative), Kristy Mark (parent representative)

All parents are invited to sit in any of the PSSC meetings to listen to the discussions regarding the School Plan. Only members of the PSSC are able to vote on issues. Individual issues should still be addressed by either the student’s teacher or the principal, not during these meetings.

2. Review of last Month’s Minutes

Minutes were accepted and will be posted on the website.

3. March School Report

Mlle Roberts returns for the remainder of the year after March Break.

March 3 –Skate with Rocky at the Rothesay Commons

March 14 – Classes resume after March break

March 17- Donna and Andy rescheduled to perform

March 19 – Hampton Education Centre Regional Chess Tournament –KV Wesleyan

March 29- Release of Term 2 Report Cards

March 31- Student led Conferences (after school to 7:30 PM)

April 1 –Student led conferences (8:30 AM-11:30 AM); PM staff professional development –no classes for students

Spring Book fair is going to happen.

4. Community School Activities update

Marilyn Dunnett is RES Community School Coordinator and she has prepared a newsletter to go out to RES community partners. The newsletter contains information on Rothesay Netherwood School and Big Brothers Big Sisters program with students at RES. This program matches grade 11 or 12 students with a student from RES through the In School Mentoring program. A new partnership with Rothesay High School is in the works to expand this program to the Leadership class at RHS. Wednesday afternoon grade 3-5 students can participate in student clubs (games, Canada, cheerleading, working with clay, crochet, dance, gymnastics, reading, science, Stat-o-matic baseball, art, writing, and yoga. There is a breakfast program offered at Rothesay elementary school for any child who arrives at the school hungry (20-40 students). This program is offered because of volunteer groups such as ADM Systems Engineering, Island View Lions Club, Town of Rothesay, and Anglophone South School District. Volunteers are always welcomed!

Upcoming activities:

-Hackmatack Book Club (one grade 5 class)

-guest speakers on Junior Achievement

-planting marigold seeds

- Next session of clubs begin April 6-May 25.

If you want any information about these programs please contact Marilyn Dunnett at Marilyn.dunnett@nbed.nb.ca or 506-343-6248

5. Student Focus group findings

Charlene Carroll met with a focus group of grade 3, 4 and 5 students for an hour to discuss some of the results from the survey students participated in regarding perceptions of experiences in school. Students reported that they have a hard time at lunch spotting staff in the playground. Students were surprised to learn that there are 8 staff members on duty during lunch. Students suggested that staff return to wearing orange vests at lunch so students can easily identify staff. Staff started wearing orange vests immediately after focus group was held. The students do not feel that more staff is needed first thing in the morning (3 compared to 8) as this is not when issues on the playground are happening. Students identified items such as cigarette butts on the ground in the playground area and the new electrical box that make the area unsafe. Also the wooded area is an area of concern for students as there are conflicts over sticks and “who owns sticks”. The focus group suggested that signs could be put up in the wooded area reminding students to be kind and to respect the trees as well as all students who would like to play in the woods. Students have a hard time identifying sport or student leaders on the play grounds as well. Need something to help identify these students. One particular question in the survey reported 6.5 out of 10 students are able to identify someone who they can trust for advice. Students in the focus group felt that had that question clearly stated an adult as someone to identify as trusting or can ask for advice this number would be higher. Students identify their friends as who they will talk to. And most of them do not want to talk to their friends about sensitive information. Charlene reports the focus group was an excellent experience and she would use this format again to help solve issues at the school. Another example of how students are helping to make the school environment and experience positive for all students.

6. Winschool Behavior Data

Winschool is a tool used to all kinds of data on children who attend the school including behavioral issues. Data can be extracted from the tool. Behavioral data was extracted from September to February 26. There were 164 occurrences of behavioral incidences. The most prevalent of behaviors recorded are disorderly conduct, disrespect (peers or staff), and rough play. Grade 5 students had the highest incidence of occurrence followed by grade 2 students. The information could also be broken down into number of behavioral incidence for number of students. Students with high number of incidences can be flagged and individual behavior support programs can be used with these students to help identify one behavior issue and set goals around improving this behavior issue.

7. New Business

One of the tasks of the PSSC is to perform a Principal Review. This has to be completed by the parent representatives of the committee before the end of May. There are a set of questions that need to be answered and sent to the district office. We plan to complete this review at the April meeting. Charlene and Jonathon will be excused the last 30 minutes of the April meeting.

The issue of students being bussed to licensed daycare providers within each designated school zone was discussed. A letter will be going out to parents soon regarding this issue.

8. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting closed at 7:55 PM. The date of the next meeting is April 5, 2016 in the meeting room at RES.