

Rothsay Park School Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) Meeting Notes

Date: January 17, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Virtual MS Teams Meeting

Present:

- Nikki Neilson, President
- Tammy Derrah, Principal
- Julie Matthews, Teacher
- Kristy Brewer, Secretary
- Johnathan Barry, DECK
- Robin Patterson, Parent

NN opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. She reviewed the agenda and said that no one had volunteered to be secretary. Kristy said she would be secretary. TD was asked for an update.

TD: Schedule for remote learning is now different from online. We applied our learnings from the strike. Took schedule into the afternoon. Finding that some students are missing the afternoon classes. Some are skiing or what have you. The province wanted the school to extend the day. All schools extended their days at request of the province. Any feedback from parents?

KB: Parents are appreciative of the afternoon schedule. Kids and parents find the 1.5-hour break challenging to manage.

TD: Have received feedback about the long break from those attending school as well. Will check with other schools. The Education Minister asked for 10% of students to be back in the building. There were specific criteria of who to invite. Our school does not have the same needs as other schools. 19 kids were invited and only 11 kids decided to attend. The bus picks them up after the 1pm class and takes them home. It is going ok, but technology has been challenging.

JM: Teachers were checking in on students that were onsite. They were participating in classes like everyone else. Online learning is delivered to the middle.

TD: It was helpful to have the students in the building as they were getting support from the teachers as well as the EA.

JM: EA supports are invaluable as they would not get the same benefit at home.

TD: Hope that it is the right decision to have them in the classroom. Teachers are asked to teach virtually and in person. The kids that returned were excited to be in the building. They have good attitudes, and no one complains about being in the building. The teachers are in the class in front of their computers. Miss Fisher does 3 or 4 lessons a day on a yoga mat. Feels the teachers go above and beyond and do a great job.

NN: Kids miss interaction and social time.

JM: Kids are getting a bit of time to interact online at the start of class or right beforehand. We have seen them introducing pets, etc.

TD: We will look at the length of the lunch break and adjust as necessary. We have had some tech updates. The district tech person is switching out older computers in the library and the tech room has already been done. They are trying to source some laptops. Some money was saved as a result of the strike and it will be used across the province.

Hot lunch did not get off the ground. It will be paused and the plan is to give the kids a week to get settled in before starting the hot lunch program. Pita Pit and Papa John's are going to be offered and we may expand and offer milk to be purchased. Lunches will still be in the classroom and not in the cafeteria. Students will probably not get back into the cafeteria before the end of the school year. Hoping to have students back at band.

SIP Day did not happen and reached a standstill. District informed schools to work on it if you can. It is not a focus – getting the students back to school is.

Hoping to have volleyball and things will turnaround. Also hoping to have a grade level dance before year end. Recognize that social interaction is so important. We will return to activity period if we are brought down a level.

A survey was done before Christmas asking the students about comfort level, etc. Results will be brought to the next meeting.

JM: Raven time has been good for meeting students. You get to know them as an “English” person versus in class.

TD: We would like to get back to Raven time. Will turn it over to JB.

JB: Participates on the DECK provincially. All 4 kids went through RPS. Loves to focus on prepping kids for what comes next. Ministers wanted to do something to get people engaged and to get parents to be involved. Not much happening and hoping for things to get better.

TD: Had planned community engagement and hope to get back to it again.

RP: How are staff feeling?

TD: Thinks people put on a good face. They have a can-do attitude. Teachers have been awesome about everything. Online learning and in person teaching are challenging. Getting into the classroom is helpful. Happy to have teachers back in the building.

Clothing orders have been good. School receives a 10% kick back. Online ordering process is easy, and it comes to your door. Feedback on quality has been good.

Next meetings should be March and June

- Outstanding student will need to be picked
- March break scheduled for March 7-11
- Next meeting should take place after the March break

NN: Suggested the next PSSC meeting be held on Monday, March 21 at 6:30pm. All attendees agreed to this date and time. The meeting will be held virtually.

TD: Will send student survey results out in advance.

NN: Closed meeting and confirmed that meeting notes would be sent out.