

St. George Elementary School PSSC meeting

December 18, 2017

In attendance: Stephanie Borthwick, Julie MacDougall , Sarah Taylor-Weeks, Katherine Grant, Kelly Norman, Michelle Gayton, Jennifer Dakai, Paddy Huizinga

- (1) Meeting was opened by Stephanie Borthwick and the agenda reviewed.
- (2) Goal for the PSSC was reviewed and discussed. Determined that the goal for this year should be improved communications between the school and the community/parents. This to include parent education pieces and events.

Discussed the option of having some info sessions for parents take place during the book fair week of Feb 12-16th, with Feb 15th being the most favoured date. Sessions to include items such as: Understanding concepts and Zones and Behaviours. There is budget for some food and a suggestion was made that baby-sitting would enable more parents to be able to attend.

Action item #1: Stephanie stated that the Literacy and Math leads are tasked with organizing such events and she will present this as an option and gather support.

Action item #2: Stephanie to check with culinary class at High school regarding catering possibilities.

The use of the classroom dojo as a method for improved communication was also discussed and determined that it is a useful tool for some, but not everyone makes use of it.

- (3) Stephanie led a discussion on input into First Nation education in the school system. This information is being requested as part of an initiative by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The following suggestions were compiled:

- Age appropriate learning experiences to expose them to aboriginal cultural Education about Canadian history (i.e. residential schools) at middle/high school level to promote openness and honesty about the past and current injustices
- History curriculum should reflect ALL of Canadian history, European and First Nations and the cultural rituals and experiences of both. This is suggested for ALL age groups.
- Schools should have access to first nations artifacts, age appropriate books, local community elders for legend and story-telling, art, exposure to first nations rituals and ceremonies
- Curriculum that seamlessly attaches to art and language
- Have specific weeks/days built in school calendar that can be used to showcase first nations (i.e. orange shirt day)
- Access to first nations high school students to act as guest speakers at schools where there isn't a first nation's student population. Those students can act as ambassadors to introduce and bridge their culture and expose students to what first nation culture looks like/sounds like in communities throughout NB

Action item# 3: Stephanie to submit the input from the PSSC to the commission.

- (4) New Staff member joining SGES in January to take the Grade 2 class currently being taught by Jennifer Dakai. This is a D contract and the teacher's name Louisa Seals. Communication:
- (5) Paddy updated the PSSC regarding the "Tell them from me" survey. The survey is complete and the results will be made available during the next meeting.
- (6) Next meeting date: Jan 22, 2018. 6-7pm

Minutes submitted by Julie MacDougall