

St. George Elementary School PSSC meeting

September 25, 2017

In attendance: April Henry, Stephanie Borthwick, Julie MacDougall, Jennifer Borthwick, Sarah Weeks, Katherine Grant, Kelly Norman, Larry Boudreau, Michelle Gayton, Vanessa Loveless, Jennifer Dakai, Paddy Huizinga

- (1) Meeting was opened by Paddy Huizinga and election of chair and secretary took place. Chair: Stephanie Borthwick, Secretary: Julie MacDougall.
- (2) Round table introductions were conducted as there were many new members present.
- (3) Minutes of the last meeting for the 2016-2017 school year could not be located. Action items from the previous meeting included the drainage system under the road away from the school, the system was shared with the town. Paddy gave an update that the work has now been completed.
- (4) PSSC orientation is to take place in St. Stephen Middle School on Oct 4, 2017 at 6pm, dinner will be served. 5 members of the St. George PSSC have volunteered to attend.
- (5) Communication:
 - discussion on how to improve the home to school communication. Suggestion was made to post the PSSC meeting minutes to the school website as this method is used in other schools. The issue is that the SGES website is out of date and not currently usable.

Action item: Paddy to check with Cheryl about updating the website and PSSC members to help with the posting of the minutes.

-Synervoice is still in use and there was an issue with the emails going out which has now been addressed.

(6) Principals report (see attached)

-school supplies: of the 262 students enrolled, only 23 have not paid the supply fee or purchased supplies. Paddy is looking into solutions to assist these families in paying. Accounting is not yet complete, but it seems to have been successful. The new system has benefits as the school is able to purchase items tax free, they will be able to re-use items such as scissors year to year, it evens the playing field so that all students have the same supplies and encourages students to learn classroom and supply management.

-transportation: there were some bus issues at the beginning of the year, but action has been taken to correct the issues. Sept 25, 2017 was the first day of implementing a new system for travel changes. Changes are required to be made by 12pm and so far there have not been any issues. This system was implemented as a safety issue to ensure there was enough time to ensure all students are being sent to the correct locations. The first reverse bus run of the year was successful with the only issue being 2 late buses. This issue has been corrected and should not occur again.

-School Improvement plan: The role of the PSSC includes providing input into the school improvement plan. This year the plan will focus on Professional Learning Communities (PLC). This will be implemented on a small scale before growing it to larger groups.

-10 year plan: we are now on year 2 of the 10 year plan. Stephanie Borthwick explained how this works .80% of the teachers should be planning their day based on a balanced literacy model which included 9 components. St. Geroge falls within a priority zone which means extra resources are allocated here. Also noted was that the change was stressful for the K-2 teachers and the way they now teach looks very different from how many of us were taught with children receiving a learning plan based on their needs.

-The PSSC receives money each year to be spent on communications. Typically, it has been spent on the Synervoice system and paper to be used for newsletters home.

Action item: We can discuss at a later meeting how this year's money should be allocated.

Next meeting: Monday October 20, 2017 6-7pm

Minutes submitted by Julie MacDougall