

***Learn. Achieve. Aspire***

***Tomorrow Begins Today***

SSHS PSSC Minutes

October 7th, 2019

6:30pm – 8:15pm

Attendance:

Krista Amos - Principal

Adam Harris- Vice Principal

Tammy Smith – PSSC Member

Nicole Dufour - PSSC Member

Bernadette Cunningham - PSSC Member

Juanita Woodside - PSSC Member

Tanya Downey – PSSC Member

Regrets:

Jennifer Johnston – PSSC Chair

Bruce Richardson – PSSC Member

***Welcome and Overview***

First meeting of the year is a general meeting where an overview of the year happens. We will plan on 2 meetings per term. Next meeting in December will focus on data results from a variety of different surveys.

***School Overview:***

Enrollment is currently at 460 students. All time low. We have some students who have moved away over the summer and some at risk students have not returned however we are working hard to reengage those students, and a few have come back to work through our Alternative Education Program.

Staff we have maintained due to a couple of pilots which we will discuss in a few minutes. We do have two new teachers to the building due to retirements:

Rachel Greene – new FI teacher, currently coaching the Varsity Girls soccer program and doing an exceptional job in the classroom

Scott Legge – a transfer from SSMS and currently revamping our BBT program, coaching our Varsity boys’ soccer program and will be running our Idea Center (pilot to be discussed below) second term.

***Pilots and SPR’s***

4 new pilot programs this year. These programs offer huge value for our students:

1 – School Improvement Process (SIP): We are piloting the process; it is a 3-year process and we are currently 1 year into our current SIP. We have had one meeting but the school will meet to do more PL in Nov and Jan. We have held off looking at it as there is a new process to use moving forward. We will examine the data and examine what we need to change and mesh with the District Improvement Plan. Last year the big 3 were student engagement in learning, (guest speakers, choice, engage them to want to be here) assessment – move away from test and exam. How do we have balanced assessment. #3 was mental health. When we look at our data and determine what the needs at SSHS are and then adjust if we need to. In the end we may end up with the same 3 goals, but we want to critically review our data and our practices as we move forward.

3. Essential Skills – Starts semester 2. We have a .5 teacher who will work with a small group of students who are at risk of leaving us. In a pilot year we will have 7-10 students. The outcomes needed to be met will posted and they will meet them outside the traditional classroom. There is a community engagement piece that they need to be able to solve. They need to present the problem and solve it. Male or female. Mark Huys will be the lead teacher. Administration and the Resource team will receive the training as well. Students can move in and out of classes as needed to reach their outcomes. This program is really outside the box of traditional education but is seeing huge successful in other pilot schools. We are hoping to save these students from dropping out of school and giving them the opportunity to excel.

4. Idea Center – We did receive a .5 staff to run this. Idea behind this program is around global competencies in education. The world of work our kids are heading to is changing drastically. Students will be given the opportunity to head off site to share space with entrepreneurs who do not need full time office space. They will have access to these businesspeople in a working environment to pick their brains and improve the products they are developing. They will obtain credits and will prepare their business plan. They will have to present their business plan. SJ has had this for several years and it has been very successful. Students who think outside the box are being given the opportunity to run with it. We will present to the 11/12 students second term. Kendal Kadatz from future St. Stephen is helping and on board as there are businesspeople who are looking for part time office space. Looking at how we engage the students in their learning and make them critical thinkers. Business want people who are problem solvers and that is our goal in engaging the students.

5. ESS – This is a school team that looks to help solve the needs and problems of the school the new approach to this is a business model that we will follow to better meet the needs of the students of SSHS.

2- SPR – Supplementary Positions of Responsibility – there are not leads at HS as there are at the middle and elementary levels. Instead we have 5 here teachers on staff who oversee the different departments at SSHS

Natalie Hart – French and Positive Learning Environment

Krista McKnight – English & Humanities

Tom Hart – Science & Technology

Darren Higgins - Resource

Krista White – Math

These are one-year positions – if we are happy with the work that is being done, we can renew for a 3 year position. 3 new SPR’s and Darren and Krista White are in year 3. They are eager to take on new challenges and continue to move SSHS forward.

***PSSC Budget***

we have not received it yet. Money should be used around communication, but it is up to us on how we want to spend the money. Funding is based on our student population. Our ed center would like to do some more parent sessions similar to those that were done last year. We can look at that as we move forward.

***Extra- Curricular Code of Conduct –***

This is our former Clean Play policy. The ask of clean play was students to abstain from drugs and booze. After a series of tragic accidents, the school implemented clean play in place to try and curb the risky behaviour’s students were participating in. Kids and parenting have changed significantly from 1993 when the original clean play protocols were established. We have had 3 sessions in which parents / students / coaches were given the opportunity to express the pros and cons of the policy. These meetings were chaired by Heather Bell Williams and Melissa Brown so to remove Krista and Adam from the meetings to allow people the opportunity to speak freely. We were hearing parents concern was kids were lying and driving under the influence and putting themselves in dangerous positions to keep them from getting caught. The policy was ineffective and putting students in dangerous positions. A new code of conduct has been established which will allow the administration the opportunity to establish boundaries and guidelines but allows parents the decision on what to permit on students’ free time. A copy of the policy will be posted on the school’s web page as well.

***Vaping –***

Was a major issue last year. We made our own discipline last year, but the challenge was it was not consistent across the province. It was impossible to deal with. A standard discipline protocol across the district has come out. The number of vaping incidents are dropping, the use of the 172.50 fine has helped. Kids are also watching social media and seeing the health risk. Kids are catching on. It is getting better. Teachers are helping us monitor high risk areas and reporting to us when they suspect students are vaping.

***Crosswalk and McD’s –***

The crosswalk had been damaged in July and has not been fixed yet. Neither the town or province took ownership but after several calls Krista was able to find out that the town is responsible for its repair. We were promised a temporary sign, but it never happened. Jenn was able to the Mayor to get the digital sign up coming around the traffic circle. Portable sign is now there. Big sign should be fixed and up shortly as they had to order parts for it.

The Province is also coming to examine the off ramps as our students have to cross 2 of them to get to McDonalds. We began this process in August and it is now October. We are making slow headway with our concern.

***International Students***

We currently have 18 international students from a wide variety of nations. They have become very involved in our school community with athletics and drama. They are a very nice group of students this year. Having them here is very helpful to our school community and we continue to have a great partnership with AEI.

***New School timetable***

One of the major issues our students have brought forth the last couple of years is they stressed beyond belief. They want to be a part of clubs and activities but have absolutely no time. We are at maximum minutes of instruction in the day, but they find they had no time, especially at lunch. We have been able to adjust the timetable to give every class the same amount of time and extend our lunch to 55 min. This only lengthened the day by 9 minutes. We have been able to bring back intramurals 2 days a week which students are loving. Our lobby has come alive during break and lunch time due to the variety of games available everyday (pool, ping pong, foosball). There is a very positive vibe in our building. Another positive adjustment has been the creation of an Assembly Timetable. – teachers were losing time for the variety of assemblies that were held throughout the year. We have made a schedule were every class is reduced by a few minutes and we were able to free up an hour in the day and not have any classes missed.

There is also a new 1hr Bus delay schedule to ensure classes are not missed.

***Discipline Report –***

There have been 60 incidents in the first 22 days of school. The top behaviours that we are dealing with are:

Vaping, defiance, disrespect, Inappropriate Language and Unjustified Absenteeism.

A variety of consequences have been used but we are trying to use in school suspension as much as possible to avoid sending students home. Our SIW has been a huge help with this.

***Digital Sign –***

Thoughts on rental of the digital sign. We would like to make better use of it but need assistance in getting it out there that we will rent space/time on the sign. We would like some help moving forward with developing a contract that we can use. The sign cannot be used to advertise for fast food restaurants etc.

***Gwyenn Dyer –***

Will be here the night of Oct. 9th speaking on climate change. He speaks very well but over the heads of a lot of our kids. The Green Group and Environmental Science class are bringing him in. There will be a box for donations at the door.

***RCMP***

October 15th will present on safe driving to our 11/12 students during AI. We had this presentation a few years ago and it went over very well.

***John Westhaver –***

November 4th Zero Fatalities Tour will be back again and will present to school body and Campobello.

Rob Holladay Tour - Nov 20th Vaping presentation to the whole school ( 9/10 together and 11/12 together) and he will also be doing a parent night. He is a former radiologist and has been doing this tour for the last year. Comes with a medical background. It is our continued effort to inform and educate our students on the dangerous of vaping.

***Extra- Curricular***

We currently have:

Varsity Girls Soccer

Varsity Boys Soccer

Varsity Girls Softball

Football

Drama

Art Club

Key Club

We Group

Leadership

Very pleased with the groups that are currently underway.