

George Street Middle School

Fredericton

Parent School Support Committee

January 10, 2022.

Virtual Microsoft Team meeting.

PSSC Members Present

Ruth Eden, Chair

Christina Nicoll, Vice Chair

Allan Lynch, Acting Secretary

Jacqueline Reid

Andrea Addison

Debbie Craik

Jolene Dorcas

Amagd Hanafy

Erin Smith

Tim Yerxa

Guests – Jan Rowinski, Titilope Masominu

Regrets:

Miriam McLaughlin, Dec Representative

Debra Weyman, Pssc Representative

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1.Call to Order

6:30 pm

Land Acknowledgement: “ We respectfully acknowledge the territory in which we gather is the unceded ancestral homeland of the Wulastuwkey people”

Allan Lynch volunteered to take the minutes

2. Motion to approve the minutes: 1<sup>st</sup> Christina Nicoll

2<sup>nd</sup> Erin Smith

### 3. Chairs Report: Nothing at this time

### 4. Principal's Report:

- Hanwell School data
  - 142 letters were delivered for students expected to attend Hanwell in September 2022.
  - The student numbers will continue to change as families move into the area during 2022.
  - Pierre shared the current projected class/student expectations for Hanwell School for 2022/23.

#### **Projections 2022-23 Middle Level at Hanwell**

##### **Grade 6**

EFI – 32 (2 classes)

Prime – 20 (1 class)

##### **Grade 7**

EFI – 31 (2 classes)

Prime – 25 (1 class)

##### **Grade 8**

EFI – 31 (2 classes)

Prime – 27 (1 class)

##### **Totals**

EFI – 94 students

Prime – 72 students

Total – 166 students

- Pierre invited Michelle Ashfield to comment on the back to school plan for virtual learning
  - Learning plans and transportation arrangements have been developed for those students who will continue in-person learning.
  - 32 ipads have been loaned
  - District wants to keep online screen time learning to 120 – 150 minutes per day
  - Consistent daily schedule structure
  - Core subjects have been scheduled for morning periods as students tend to be more attentive earlier in the day. Physical education, PRA, music components are scheduled for later in the day.

### 5. Teachers Report:

Donations for Liberty Lane, from Community Allies Group (grades 6 to 8) campaign, resulted in 2 truckloads and a carload of cleaning/health products being delivered before Christmas. Feedback from Liberty Lane was very positive, indicating they rely on the GSMS donation of these supplies to help serve clients needs into the spring.

6. Home and School: Their last meeting was cancelled. The Fundraiser for Scott's Nursery was not as successful as hoped for

7. DEC Report: Absent

8. New Business

### **HANWELL SCHOOL – continuation of December meeting topic.**

Are there options for kids entering into grade 8 to continue at George?

- Students may be able to apply for out of zone but they would not qualify for transportation
- George Street has not taken new students from out of zone in the last 5 years, in part because of high student population from in-zone.
- Is there a possibility of DEC approving a grandfather clause for the grade 8s to attend George as they have missed out on so much since Covid began. If so how would staff be allocated between the 2 schools? Could they cancel grade 8 at Hanwell all together?
- Discussion around PSSC role:
  
- It was decided that PPSC will draft a poll question for parents of current Grade 7 students to assess the interest in having students remain at GSMS to complete middle school vs attending the new Hanwell School for one year before moving onto high school.
  - Tim Yerxa - Poll question should avoid sentiment/emotion toward any of the options presented (or in the question being) asked
  - Erin suggested one single question with a straightforward response.
  - Christina suggested a space for comments might be useful.
  - PSSC role is to conduct the poll and relay information to District about the GSMS parent community response.
  - Al Lynch - PSSC should avoid advocating for one position or another unless there is a clearly dominant choice from the poll results.
- **ACTION ITEM: Ruth offered to draft and polling question possibilities to the PSSC.**

### **NEW GSMS PRINCIPAL STATUS:**

The competition closed on December 23<sup>rd</sup> but there has been no contact from ASD West to the PSSC or its Chair for input.

Tim Yerxa suggested that Ruth, as Chair, send a note to the district superintendent to for an update on the selection process and to express the PSSC's desire to have a new principal in place as soon as possible.

A bit of discussion about the role of PSSC in the selection process followed. Anecdotally., district has merely asked PSSC members to complete a survey /poll (eg. about what qualities a new principal at their particular school should possess). This seems to fall short of the previous practice of having the PSSC Chair take part in hiring interviews for the principal and vice-principal positions.

Tim Yerxa suggested that Ruth, as Chair, send a note to the district superintendent to for a status update on the hiring the new principal for GSMS and to express the PSSC's desire to have a new principal in place as soon as possible. Andrea suggested that the letter might also ask about the role of the PSSC in the selection process.

**ACTION ITEM: Ruth, as Chair, will write District Superintendent David MacTimoney to get an update on the status and next steps of hiring for the GSMS principal position. .**

The following excerpt has been provided in reference to the role of the PSSC in the hiring of the school principal.

### GOVERNANCE

#### Education Act (S.N.B. 1997, c. E-1.12)

##### **Establishment of Parent School Support Committees** 2000, c.52, s.20.

33(2) A Parent School Support Committee shall

(a) through the chair of the Parent School Support Committee, or another member designated by the Parent School Support Committee, who must be a parent of a pupil enrolled in the school, participate in the selection of the principal or any vice-principal of the school,

#### **GSMS Re-Branding of Crusaders name and Mascot– continuation of December meeting topic.**

Michelle suggested that the use of a facilitator in the development of the vision/mission and whether the process should be deferred until the new GSMS administration team is in place. The committee agreed with this approach. \$2,400 was approved at the December PSSC meeting PSSC for this project on various items including possibly a graphic artist from a local college or University to do the logo in the Spring

Amagd reported that some current and former GSMS students are working on presentations about the rebranding. A competition will be held and the winner may be invited to present at the PSSC and to the student population.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 7:30pm

Next meeting February 7th at 6:30pm

Meetings will follow public health and ASD-W guidelines. We may meet in person in rules allow, if not it will take place virtually through Microsoft Teams.