

**SCHOOL NAME: Nackawic High School**

**Parent School Support Committee Minutes**

**Date: Jan 17, 2022 Time: 7pm**

**Location: Virtual / Teams**

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| **PSSC Members Present:**  Jeanette Garland, Chairperson  Andrea Hull  Anna MacFarlane, Secretary  Nick Graham  Stacey Clark  Kelly Dixon  Rob Simpson | **PSSC Members, Regrets:**  Shauna Brewer  Marla Calder  Andrea Dore | **School/DEC Representation Present:**  Sean Newlands, Principal  Andrea Cronkhite, Teacher Rep.  Charisma Farrell, Student Rep.  **School/DEC Representation**  **Present:**  Tanya Cloutier |

**Call to Order: 7:05pm**

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Moved by Andrea H, seconded by Nick.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Moved by Andrea H, seconded by Nick.

Tanya Cloutier (DEC) inquired whether there is a need for her to include NHS in her efforts to pursue additional funding for breakfast programs. Sean responded that there is no current need, as our school has been fortunate to receive funding and grants from various sources (Foodbank, President’s Choice grants, parents/staff donations, community group donations). Tanya invited everyone to contact her on any potential issue, and that as the DEC rep, she is available to help and give support.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**Update on recent new Initiative with Social Media Postings**

The PAC (Positive Action Committee) has reported that the reception has been good, with our Instagram account having 136 followers (the majority are students). The daily “posts” are receiving 10-20 likes, and “stories” posted have around 50 views.

**PSSC Orientation**

For anyone who would like access to PSSC Orientation, resources are available on the DEC/ASDW website: the Orientation Package can be found under the PSSC tab. For further information, anyone can reach out to either Sean or Jeanette for more information.

**New Business:**

**Exam Week**

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, no regular exams will be held, and teachers will have various of on-line/virtual assessments taking place.

**Start of Semester Two**

Wednesday, February 2, is currently assigned as the first day “in-person”, where students will no longer be doing on-line classes.

**Online Schooling Update**

Sean and Charisma reported that both students and teachers seem to be getting accustomed to the online teaching environment. Andrea C voiced concerns with attendance, stating the she has seen a 90% attendance rate been reduced to about 60% in the last week, making it difficult to determine how student are truly doing. Sean added that 71/261 students had missed at least one class, with only 12 missing a full day.

The school is longer reporting directly to school families on positive Covid-19 cases among staff or students, the information is now available on the “District Covid-19 Dashboard” at the ASDW website. Should the situation arise where a student may have been exposed one day, the school will inform the student/family by sending out a letter.

**International Students**

We currently have 5 full time international students; Tim (from France) finished his term and returned home, and Camilla from Mexico will be arriving on January 29th, bringing us back up to 6 students. Upon arrival, students are required to follow Covid-19 protocol with regards to isolating and testing.

**School Plan (summary of actions)**

Prior to the school closing down, some activities held were; Home Room Trees & Wings Challenge, virtual Pictionary Team contest, 2nd Annual Xmas Brunch by staff for students, as well as a virtual assembly organized by the NHS GSA club with positive messaging about inclusion, respect, and support, which was attended by 102 students (virtually) and very well received.

NHS has purchased more furniture for use in the upstairs lobby, having moved the ping pong tables to the cafeteria, for the time being. This will support the newly created club (by Jessica) supporting students that may need someone to talk to, or meet others, in a casual setting.

Aimed at the plan’s second goal, Mental Fitness, there are two upcoming guest speakers for school staff; Deborah Deacon (PD session on career resources and mental health) and Jason Elliott (Youth/Child mental health counsellor).

NBED Student Survey on Education Wellness survey carried out in December; we will soon have data available.

Staff Survey from the fall; really good feedback, still lots of stress experienced but also a lot of support. The responses/data will be reviewed in more detail at the next PSSC meeting.

A new IDEA BOX has been placed in the front office for anyone in the school community to use by placing a note inside it with an idea or two. Sean will make sure that its location is made known to all the students.

**Grants Update**

There is a potential for a new source of funding for the school’s breakfast and snack programs through the school district. Sean will have more information regarding this at the next meeting. Other grants received from district; 1)$500 to improve class libraries, and 2) $500 to improve math classroom resources.

Sean mentioned that the United Ways’ grant cycle for community group funding applications is soon starting up again, for anyone aware of groups that may be interested.

**PSSC Funds**

Opening Balance $854.20

Meeting Supplies $73.61

New Balance $780.59

These funds must be spent before March 31, 2022. Jeanette moved to allow the school administration towards copying paper and postage, as done in previous years. The motion was seconded by Anna. All in favour.

**Supply Days for Staff and EA’s – Coverage**

With the current pandemic situation, most teachers are teaching virtually from school, and the majority of students currently learning on-line from home, and it was discussed how teachers are dealing with the situation. Andrea H inquired if we as parents should be concerned about changes in the approach to teaching taking place in general. Sean stated that the NBTA are in the process of negotiations and will be discussing how to establish new parameters around online learning and teaching as it relates to sick days and supply teachers covering for teachers too sick to teach (on-line). Sean continued that these are new realities for all schools, and with different challenges for each school grade level. Some teachers have chosen to keep teaching (online) from home as they may have been well enough (or Covid-19 asymptomatic) to do so. Where a teacher has a true sick day and cannot teach, supply teachers are now challenged to teach a course online effectively.

Sean reported that most of our staff seem to be adjusting to the new online/in person blended learning situation taking place, and Andrea C added that the support Educational Assistants (EA’s) has never been more appreciated, and that everyone seem to be “rolling with the punches” and adapting to changes well.

**Staff Appreciation (February)**

Typically held second week of February (to be confirmed). PSSC will participate in supporting and showing appreciation for our staff, and Jeannette will be sending out an email for discussing potential ideas. It was suggested that we involve local restaurants if we decided to provide meals, so as to support local businesses as well. There are currently 34 staff and custodians, and 11 bus drivers.

**Important Dates**

Jan 24-28 – Exams Semester One

Jan 23 – Last day of Semester One

Jan 31 - Turnaround date; no school for students

Feb 1 – Turnaround date; no school for students

Feb 2 - Return to school (expected)

Mar 7-11 - March Break

Mar 21 – PSSC meeting

Mar 23 – Health Canada presentation on Vaping Issue/Situation (grade 9/10)

Mar 24 – Health Canada presentation on Vaping Issue/Situation (grade 11/12?)

**Correspondence**

N/A

**Opening to the floor**

There has been a severe increase of vaping activity in the school, in particular in the student washrooms. The school is revising its vaping policy (and consequences) which will be announced before the students are to return after January 31st.

**Date of Next Meeting: March 21, 2022, at 7pm.**

**Adjournment: At 8:23pm**

Jeanette Garland **January 28, 2022**

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**President Date**

***Anna MacFarlane January 23, 2022***

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**Secretary Date**