**New Maryland Elementary School**

**Parent School Support Committee**

**PSSC Minutes**

**Date/Time:** April 19, 2017 at 6:00pm

**Location:** New Maryland Elementary School

1. **Call to Order**
* In attendance: Heather Hallett, Aurora Reid, Sarah Bird, Natalie Holder, Jennifer Bent Richard, Karyn Hamilton, Terry Pond
* Regrets: David Lavigne, Stacy Coy, Lisa Inness
1. **Review of February Minutes**
	1. (Note March meeting cancelled due to weather) Minutes approved by Heather, Seconded by Sarah
2. **Review and Approval of Agenda**
	1. Agenda reviewed in-meeting – addition of ‘evacuation plan’ discussion topic by Heather. Approved by Sarah, Seconded by Natalie
3. **Business Arising from Minutes (follow-up items)**
	1. March Parent Information Session – Dr. Judith Margison
	* The topic (nurturing resiliency) was very well received and of interest; materials were requested and circulated after the meeting
	* There was active parent participation/contribution during the session and that seemed to go very well
	* Fewer participation than last time – could have been weather related (nearly cancelled, had a snow day planned with speaker in case)
	* Discussion about the PSSC using a part of their budget next year to purchase the materials to develop a reusable sign advertising these sessions for posting on the Village board on the highway – **carry forward to next fall**
	* Suggestion to have a ‘suggestion box’ at the fall frolic in order to hear from parents about the kinds of topics they would like to see offered – would need a sign and pre-communication so that parents know it’s there and what it is for – **carry forward to next fall**
	* Overall **a very positive initiative from the PSSC and interest to carry on with it and potentially expand** (Aurora prepared a planning and communications document for use in future planning). Reminder of the potential presenters identified previously:Patty Peterson and Bill Morrison, perhaps together.
4. **Reports**
	1. **DEC Report (Terry Pond)**
	* Have had discussion about Grade 1 entry for French
	* Leo Haze and Hanwell discussions
	* Fredericton public session on April 20 (tomorrow)
	* DEC adopted a new sexual orientation and gender identity policy for vote tomorrow
	* Reminder of the minutes structure that was circulated at the start of the year
	* May symposium (May 5-7)
	* A question was asked about the pilot to expand the hours of K-2; schools can apply to be part of that; pilot to explore this potential and the outcomes or impact of it.
	1. **Principal’s Report (Heather Hallett)**
	* Parent/Teacher meetings were well attended
	* Laura Vail is on maternity leave, replaced by Shannon LaBrecque
	* The collective agreement has been signed
	* Yearbook has been completed
	* Good return on the wellness surveys; more than 50%
	* After school Art program started March 23rd
	* Gr. 1 classes visited Superstore for the organized nutrition tour
	* Healthy snacks were enjoyed by students as part of the March nutrition month initiative
	* Gr. 2 classes enjoyed the production of Little Mermaid presented at George St middle school
	* Gr. 5 FI hosted a medieval fair to mark the end of their unit of study
	* World Autism Day was recognized on April 3rd with students invited to wear superhero costumes
	* Transition meetings have started for pre-K students
	* Jacob Lingley is working with the Techspert group; predominantly on coding
	* Classrooms recognized “Talk With Our Kids About Money Day” in various ways April 19th Credit Union representative visited the Gr. 4 core classrooms
	* String quartet will perform for grades K-5 April 20th
	* The Frye Festival will be facilitating a Writers workshop for Gr. 4 students April 21st
	* We have two choirs registered for the Music Festival this month
	* May 1st we will celebrate Music Monday whole school
	* Parents and students have been invited to participate in and visit a Maker Space Showcase at Bliss Carmen Middle school on May 9th
	1. **Home and School Update**
	* Playgrounds will be fully installed and ready for use by June 30
	* 6 ukuleles purchased for music
	* $100/month for the maker writer space
	* Incubator purchased for the school
	* Discussion about a snack for the end of year picnic and the potential to have a book fundraiser related to a reading app: Grade Flip
	* The H&S committee will be sending an email to the school community to outline what it has accomplished this school year.
5. **New Business**
	1. **Budget Item**
	* Paper is an item that the PSSC will support if there is room in the budget; there needs to be confirmation of that at the start of the budget discussions in order to avoid any confusion at the end of the year.
	1. **Temporary Lead for September 2017**
	* Several of the PSSC members are leaving the committee at the end of this year as their kids are leaving to go to Bliss, and others have changed work commitments. The current Chair, Vice Chair and Recording roles are going to be vacated. The PSSC needs a person to temporarily lead the committee through recruiting and elections in September (this person does not need to ultimately nominate for a position if they are not interested in doing so). **At the May meeting (last meeting of the year) it is requested that a PSSC parent member who intends to remain on the committee volunteer to kick off the meetings in the fall and work with Heather to lead the committee through elections.**
	1. **Evacuation Plan**
	* The PSSC discussed the school evacuation plan because there has been a member of the parent community concerned and upset that the evacuation plan includes taking the children into a church. The PSSC confirmed that there is no other appropriate option to ensuring that the children reach a safe location in the event of activating the evacuation plan. The evacuation plan is practiced and this is also a necessity in order to be prepared. Other than to continue to communicate this to the family and to offer alternate location for that child (which has been done), the PSSC supports the current approach.

\*NOTE: need to change the May meeting date from the 24th, Heather has a conflict; Aurora will poll the group for availability on May 17.\*

1. **Next Meeting:** May 17, 2017 – to be confirmed via email (last meeting of the year)
2. **Adjourned:** 7:15pm