River Valley Middle School PSSC

Minutes – November 16, 2021 @ 6:30pm

Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 586 649 0013

Passcode: SUuPm8

In attendance: Trudy McGrath, Tatum Clendenning, Robyne Foster, Jennifer Hunter, Carol Gatien, Kimberly McCormick, Amanda Hamm, Stacey Doyle, Dan Pusey, Krista Mawhinney

Regrets: Erin Morrison, Andrea Hatt

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Code of Conduct – Reminder to members to send in Declaration Forms to Trudy McGrath.
3. District Education Council (DEC) - Amanda Hamm, local DEC member, spoke on how the DEC will soon have a high school student as a council member. Target date to implement this is January 2022. This is something that our students may want to participate in when they reach high school. DEC is implementing 4 new policies as a District improvement plan.
4. ASAP is Back! - Not being able to have ASAP this past year has really made everyone realize how much it is loved.
   1. 4 ASAP schedules have been created. Schedules are posted on the school webpage.
   2. 2 early buses have been arranged. The buses will drop kids off on the main roads (will not be driving through each neighborhood for drop off)
   3. School hours are still 8:40am to 3:10pm. Some students may choose to not participate in ASAP and may leave early however there may be times that students are required to stay for workroom until 3:10pm.
   4. ASAP is only possible because teachers volunteer their time to make it happen. Teachers are currently taking a 25-minute lunch break and giving the remaining 35 minutes of their lunch to the ASAP program. Much appreciation to the teachers for giving their time for our children!!
   5. Contact tracing will be maintained during ASAP.
5. Grade Rubric and Assessment Practices.
   1. A grade of 4 is rarely given out. It’s not necessarily because the student doesn’t deserve it. When following the curriculum, there’s rarely an opportunity for a student to show that they consistently exceed the grade level independently.
   2. It’s important for students to show that they are meeting grade level consistently and independently. If students are not consistent and independent, then a lower grade may be given.
   3. Other than tests scores, grades are based on participation, work habits and responsibility.
   4. It is also rare for a student to receive 1 as a grade unless they are consistently not trying at all.
6. PSSC Funds (new spending guidelines).
   1. Funds must be directly related to PSSC event or activity.
   2. Can be used to promote an event at the school (flyers, advertising)
   3. Examples of events are: Wellness event, literacy night, job fair, babysitting & first aid courses.
   4. Event must be offered to all students. Cannot be specific to one class or group.
   5. A decision on how to spend the money must be made by February and then spent before the end of March (fiscal year-end).
   6. Process of deciding on how to spend the money must be official (motion, vote, recorded in minutes)
7. Future discussion/action items.
   1. No update on when the cafeteria will start offering food for purchase.
   2. Dress code will be researched.
   3. Grants for books or other classroom enrichment. Amanda Hamm will assist with navigating the grant application process.
   4. Mrs. McGrath will investigate what school improvement projects they would like to see happen in the next year or two. Grants may be available for these projects.
8. Adjournment
   1. Next meeting is January 11, 2022.