

**River Valley Middle School PSSC
September 24, 2018**

Attendees:

Principal Trudy McGrath
Vice Principal Erica Nelson
Teacher Darrah Sawyer
Laurie McIsaac-Bewsher
Christine Jacobson
Cathy Fawcett
Kelly Robson
Chair – Dan Pusey
Miranda Harnish
Donna Coleman
Maggie Coffin Prowse

Regrets:

Krista Hawkes
Megan Steeves
Terri Mutch
Rob Fowler

1. Welcome

6:34pm Principal McGrath welcomed the group and opened the meeting

2. Introductions/Attendance

6:36pm Everyone introduced themselves and shared their connection to RVMS.

3. Code of Conduct/Purpose of PSSC

6:42pm Principal McGrath reviewed the Code of Conduct.

6:47pm Everyone signed and passed in the Declarations.

4. Selection of 2018/2019 meeting dates

6:49pm Per Principal McGrath, we are required to meet 6 times per year but more are scheduled to cover possible cancellations. The decided dates are as follows:

October 29, 2018

November 26, 2018

January 21, 2018

February 25, 2018

March 25, 2018

April 29, 2018

May 27, 2018

Meetings will start at 6:30 for each date. The meeting will go to approximately 7:30-8:00.

5. Information

a. Sweet Caroline Program

6:52 Principal McGrath outlined the history behind the Sweet Caroline Program. The ASDS Superintendent is on the board for the Program. The Program created a video for middle and high school students to view. They asked that kids be trained in the use of EpiPens. Thirty percent of students in the District have been asked to do a pre-survey and post-survey. RVMS has been selected to do the survey portion in addition to the video itself. The surveys are to assess whether the students are retaining the video information.

The video may be very emotional for some students and, as such, the teachers will do their best to prepare the students for the video. Principal McGrath will be sending the link to the video to PSSC and parents but it is already available on YouTube. RVMS has a kit suitable for both adults and students. The office hosts an extra epipen in the event of an emergency.

The video illustrates how an anaphylactic reaction is not the same for everyone and it may not be the same for the same person. RVMS currently has students with allergies to varying degrees.

b. Cashless Schools

6:59pm Principal McGrath outlined how the cashless school system works. The school got training on how to administer the system. It will be tough to get complete compliance because not every parent has a credit card or wants to use a credit card.

RVMS doesn't fundraise much with a few exceptions (e.g., Quebec trip). As such, RVMS needs parents to pay the student fee. The student fee is voted on by the PSSC each spring for the proceeding fall. The cashless school system costs RVMS 4% per transaction. The Program is implemented throughout the District.

c. School Messenger

7:08pm Messenger reads from the SchoolConnects data sheets and generates Safe Arrivals from that point. It has not worked perfectly but it is improving. Parents can use the School Messenger app to advise the school a child will be home. The default is that the student is present. That said, teachers appreciate receiving an email note that the child will be absent.

The PSSC discussed whether parents should get the principal messages via voice mail and electric mail. Principal McGrath is going to do the last voice mail tomorrow, September 25, 2018 and from that point onward it will be just via email (no more voice mail).

Motion to have principal weekly message be via email only:

Motion by Cathy Fawcett
Seconded Darrah Sawyer
unanimously passed

6. Parent Pickup/Drop off

7:18 Dan Pusey asked to revisit the issue of parent pickup/drop issue from last year. Principal McGrath affirmed that cars cannot be in the bus loading/unloading areas while buses are loading/unloading.

Options for pickup/drop off:

- Zamboni doors
- parking lot to east of school
- Rink side of cement barriers

Discussion considered bigger signs for the issue and Principal McGrath will enquire into sign opportunities. As well, she will remind parents in her next weekly message.

7. Discussion points

a. Parent Pickup/Drop off

Already discussed so this item was skipped.

8. Future discussion/action items

7:24pm Darrah Sawyer proposes to do another career fair in the Spring. As well, a Wellness Fair in January 2018 with PSSC taking the lead on bringing in wellness fair. For example, facials, yoga, things that can lower stress level and coping.

7:27pm Christine Jacobson asked if the new nutrition policy is adversely affecting Chef Frank. Principal McGrath assured the PSSC that Chef Frank was already preparing nutritional foods and has been making healthy substitutes to recipes to ensure the taste is good and still healthy in compliance with the policy.

9. Adjournment

7:34pm meeting adjourned.