**River Valley Middle School PSSC**

**October 28, 2019**

**Attendees:**

Principal Trudy McGrath

Chair – Dan Pusey

Jennifer Doyle

Krista Mawhinney

Donna Coleman

Maggie Coffin Prowse

Kelly Murray

Kim Chaisson

Greg Hutchinson

Christa Clawson

Terri Mutch

Kim McCormack

Jennifer Hunter

**Regrets:**

Lori McIsaac-Bewsher

Cathy Fawcett

1. **Welcome**

6:33 pm Chair welcomed the group and opened the meeting.

1. **Approval of September Minutes**

6:34pm Approve – Kim Chaisson

Second-Jennifer Doyle

Passed

1. **Discussion Points**
   1. **6:35pm Budget** 
      1. PSSC budget is $756 budget for the year.
      2. Must have a quorum for a vote.
      3. Must be spent on a whole school matter. Must be spent by end of February 2020.
      4. Could be used for a career day.
      5. Kitchen equipment has already been addressed.
      6. Biggest expense right now is projector purchases (about $900/projector).
   2. **6:41pm Provincial Achievement Results**
      1. PA exams have been released to the public.
      2. Principal McGrath circulated the 2018-2019 numbers.
      3. RVMS seems to be above average in most categories. Any number of factors could have contributed to recent jump in scores. Some good aspects from RVMS may include reading comprehension efforts, word problems, lots of practice of answering questions that are similar to PA type questions. Show proof of answer, relate to personal experience, etc…
      4. PA tests are end of May.
      5. No individual results are released. Results are released in July.
      6. It is a measure of how the province, district and school are doing relative to each other.
      7. Everyone writes the same exam unless the school applies for an exemption. Exemptions are extremely rare. School can also apply for accommodations for things such as extra time. All exams are counted, highest and lowest scores are not dropped.
      8. Results may be caused by a disconnect between what teachers are teaching and the province is testing.
      9. The Grade 6 PA test is the only middle exam that preps students for Grade 9 PA exam. A child must pass the Grade 9 PA to graduate.
      10. Data will be reviewed with staff at next staff meeting.
      11. We are the only province with total inclusion. These exams are very stressful on students who are not within a certain window of test-taking ability.
   3. **7:07pm Career Day/Reality Check**
      1. Career Day – Career Day is important because kids need awareness as to what they need to for skills for the job they want to do. Even interview skills might be of value. Chronic tardiness and absences will get you fired.
         1. Cathy Fawcett may still have the list of industries represented at the last career day. Donna has a version that can be circulated.
         2. This could be a school wide activity.
         3. Last time there were tables in the mall area and gym.
         4. Kids had a set of questions to ask:
            1. Training required?
            2. How long in school?
            3. Average salary?
         5. Each PSSC member is responsible to recruit 1-2 industries.
         6. Target date is April 2020.
      2. Reality Check - Ms. McCormick did a Game of Life event akin to the Yukon Reality Check. It could coincide with the week in April 2020 when the school works on money awareness.
         1. This might be easiest on a home room basis.
         2. There could be one room and the teachers could be brought in one at a time.
         3. Maybe this is best for Grade 8 as a lead in to Grade 9.
         4. A table would present the students with a range of choices (e.g., this house is for $2800/month and this other house is $1000/month; child care).
         5. Students could either
         6. Car dealer
         7. Bank
         8. Teachers can prep students by teaching them debt-equity ratios pre-event.
         9. Target is May 2020, after Career Day.
      3. Bring forward both Career Day and Reality Check in January 2020 meeting.
   4. **7:24pm Drug Phones Issues – RCMP presence**
      1. Questions were not directed as to identity. Rather PSSC wants to know if someone overdosed or did someone shoot up at the school.
      2. Principal directed PSSC and all parents to talk about ALL drug and alcohol.
      3. Involved prescription medication that was brought in and sold within the school.
      4. Kids need to see that the school handles it swiftly and sternly.
      5. The school is not allowed to do random locker checks.
      6. The school is *in loco parentis* which allows the school to search the student and the student’s locked if the school thinks there is an issue.
      7. The school involved the RCMP because the students needed to see that it was taking it seriously.
      8. RCMP will be on site on November 12, 2019 to discuss drugs with the students.
      9. DARE program stopped at RVMS because of lack of officers.
      10. Grade 6 and 8 there is drug and alcohol awareness through the school but not the police.
      11. PSSC members to reach out to see if there is a police officer (retired or active) to do a drug and alcohol awareness program. Bring forward at next meeting to see if anyone has found someone and, if appropriate, the PSSC could vote on whether PSSC funds should be used for that purpose.
      12. RCMP attend the lock down practices each year. They are free to roam the building to build awareness and connection with students.
      13. RCMP prefer to have a parent present when interviewing a student.
      14. When a generalized message goes out, like the drug email, PSSC can support the school by assuring parents that if they needed to be involved, they would have been informed. Parents with an interest in the events have been included. Parents who have not been involved can rest assured that they do not need to be involved.
   5. **7:51pm Chartwells**
      1. Start date is November.
      2. No word since Chartwells got on board for November.
      3. Mr. Vincent have introduced the rice bowls.
      4. If there is no Chartwells, the rice bowls, pizza and milk will continue.
      5. We have agreed to every second week Vinnie’s pizza if Chartwells comes in.
      6. John MacDonald is in charge of the process to acquire a new service.
      7. The concern with private contractors is inconsistency. For example, if a provider calls in sick, all of sudden there are 300 students with no lunch.
      8. Vinnie’s pizza is $5 for 2 dough balls.
      9. The pizza and rice bowls are making a profit.
2. **7:58pm Future discussion/action items**
   1. **November meeting -** PSSC members to reach out to see if there is a police officer (retired or active) to do a drug and alcohol awareness program.
   2. **January meeting –** Bring forward both Career Day and Reality Check in January 2020 meeting
3. **7:59pm Adjournment**

Donna - Motion to adjourn

Dan - Second to adjourn

Meeting adjourned.