

Notes from PSSC Meeting- February 24th/2021

Present: Amanda, Amy, Pat, Tiffany, Shauna, Steve, Charmaine, Christa, Heather, Melanie, Angela, Jodie

Regrets: Jaclyn

1. Call to Order

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this meeting was held virtually.

2. DEC Update-Heather

ASDS Budget for 2021-22 is on the website. Proposal was made to revamp PSSC budgets. DEC will vote on this.

3. School Enrichment Day

Will take place on Friday, February 26th. Students will participate in the following:

-Virtual Assembly

-Virtual Bingo

-Virtual Trivia

-On-Line Breakout

-Tug of War

-Pat and Amy thanked the Committee for paying for the Breakout activity. Funds from the PSSC Budget were used.

-\$1000.00 in gift cards will be awarded to those who participate in the activities. Student fees will be used to purchase these gift cards.... local restaurants, Beats and Bytes, etc.

4. High School Registration Numbers (see below)

Registration numbers listed below. Bayside students followed the usual trend of half applying for zoned school (Simonds) whereas the other half are split between SJHS and St. Malachy's. Students will be notified by mail in late April. They will also find out where they are on waiting lists (if applicable). Discussion ensued regarding the virtual open houses. Some schools had a 14-15-minute presentations whereas one school was about 4 minutes. Some schools had a student led presence. It was expressed that schools needed to highlight inclusiveness more.

5. STOMP Update

Students are invited to participate in Covid-friendly activities such as making a snowman, decorating their classroom doors, wearing pink on Pink Day, wearing team colors on designated days. Students (and custodians) are enjoying the Golden Bucket Challenge.

Prizes are awarded weekly to those classes deemed to be the cleanest.

6. Pink Shirt Day

February 24th in recognition of anti-bullying initiatives.

7. Heritage Fair

March 13 and 14th- conducted virtually with some students moving on to Regional Fair in May (also virtual).

8. Grade 8 Farewell

A group of Grade 8s presented Pat with a proposal to run a Covid-Friendly Grade 8 Farewell. The planned date is Thursday, June 24th, during the school day. The eight Grade 8 homerooms will go through a rotation of school-based activities. As this will be done during the school day, all students can participate. There will be no evening celebration this year.

9. Facebook Proposal?

Melanie mentioned that 83 parents are on board to date. She asked if this could be promoted on Twitter. Pat mentioned he will put a blurb in the March newsletter.

10. School Improvement Plan Overview (see below)-See notes in red below.

11. Items from the Committee

-Discussion regarding academic expectations due to schools being closed for close to 4 months. Tiffany mentioned that teachers have revised curriculum to reflect prioritized outcomes. It was added that learning habits have been greatly affected for many due to closures. Many have lost their drive and resilience. Many are lacking the basic facts. There are resources out there that parents can access. They are on the school and district websites.

- Pat mentioned that Term 2 home reports will be issued on March 31st. Parent-Teacher meetings (most likely virtual) will be on the evening of April 13th and the morning of April 14th.

12. Next Meeting- March 24th, 2021

13. Call to Close

High School Registration Summary:

206 of 211 forms submitted (5 forms not submitted)

Simonds High (Zoned School) – 102 (98 English and 4 FI)

Saint John High- 66 (47 English and 19 FI)

St. Malachys- 38 (23 English and 15 FI)

School Improvement Plan- Points to Consider:

1. Many adjustments made to this plan due to Covid-19 restrictions (Operational Plan, Covid-Friendly, Bubbles, etc.)
2. Math goals consider the closure of school from mid-March to June of 2020.
3. Commitment to use Microsoft Teams.
 - Many families do not have a suitable device and may lack connectivity.
4. Planning outside activities
 - Neighborhood walks, snowshoeing, outdoor games, community garden, etc.
5. Purchasing outdoor recreation equipment.
 - Amanda secured a grant for UCT for \$3000.00. This money will be earmarked for outdoor recreation equipment.
6. Social-Emotional Learning incorporated in daily curriculum (Coping strategies, STOMP initiatives, Restorative Circles)
 - Tiffany mentioned she devotes time to teach students about self-care. She uses brain breaks frequently in her classes.
 - Pat mentioned Bayside had two Behavior Intervention Mentors appointed to the school. Sam Gordon and Jessica Belliveau were brought on board to support students who are struggling in terms of behavior and attendance. They have been hired for 12 months.
7. Virtual formats for various activities.
 - Morning announcements, Remembrance Day, Heritage Fair, assemblies, etc.
8. Entrepreneurship Activities
 - Bayside has been selected to pilot a middle school program focusing on career exploration.