Meeting Minutes – PSSC – Northrop Frye School

**Thursday November 23rd, 2023 6PM**

Attendees: Melissa Thompson, Amanda Pearson, Tina Landry, Tara Glencross, Jennifer Silk, Natalie Ward, Michelle Johnson, Mohammed Dawoud, Ryan Francis

Regrets: Melissa Lavigne, Janica Bernard, Pam Nacpil, Mark Owen, Ryan Francis

*Call to order at 18:05 by Natalie Ward*

**Approval of the Agenda**

* No updates, agenda to proceed as written.

**Approval of the Minutes**

* Request to amend the previous minutes to show that all members agreed that we should begin the letter-writing initiative regarding overcrowding in our school, and to reach out to other schools in the area.
* Motion to Approve – Michelle Johnson
* Seconded by – Ryan Francis

**Discussion**

ACTION: Melissa to reach out to Lauren from Home & School to make sure she knows she can attend the meeting and/or send an update to be shared.

Traffic study. Tina to share information once it is cleared to be shared. A potential solution, for example, is to re-designate the two exit lanes and transforming them to a right-only lane and a straight/left-turn lane. Tina contacted the city about near-misses at the cross-walk.

ACTION: Natalie to speak with Patrina (crossing guard) to voice our support and encourage her to always report near-misses.

Portables expected to be ready for use by the end of the month. Plan is for grade four to move first, supply teachers will be present to give the teachers time to set up their classrooms. Movers to move the grade two furniture at the end of a day, the next day the students will be with supply teachers so the grade two teachers can set up. This will allow the school to reclaim the staff room and library for communal use.

Concern – why does the district allow Evergreen to be under capacity (three empty classrooms) while we are overfilled to the point of losing staff room, cafeteria, library, etc. What are the mechanisms for creating equilibrium between the schools? Especially when you look at maps that show building permits. Our catchment area shows significant future growth, and we anticipate this could be an escalating issue.

Information shared from the DEC meeting about boundaries – impact of changing catchment areas ensuring that boundaries of high schools are not impacted. Northrop Frye and Magnetic Hill School are connected in a way that NFS & Evergreen are not.

Update regarding our letter about overcrowding. Looking to create a coalition of PSSCs. Our chair has reached out to PSSC chairs from Maplehurst, and Evergreen, shared with Magnetic Hill. Maplehurst has signed the letter – members voted, were happy and encouraged by the letter. Magnetic Hill meets tonight and will discuss on their agenda. The chair of the Evergreen committee was not interested in sharing the letter with the rest of the group. It would be good to get support from other stakeholders in the city (community planners, etc.) The chair intends to resubmit the letter after hearing from the other PSSCs, making it an individual submission.

To make our voices heard, we can do initiatives together as a PSSC, but we have to also encourage individual advocacy to government: our MLA(s), the education minister, etc.

School improvement plan – updated process and format. Goals – literacy, numeracy, behaviour/SEL. Plans in place for monitoring progress using the Plan/Do/Check/Act model we learned about last year. English Language Arts curriculum and literacy instruction undergoing a shift. Report card data will be a metric, but the data isn’t as accurate as we would like it to be. Need for consistency and calibration for grading from teacher to teacher. Alignment needed between provincial assessment data and report card data (aligning standards).

In piloting the new curriculum, feedback we are sharing – how do we tighten the criteria for grading so that teachers have a solid understanding of what makes a 2, 3, etc.

Feedback from a parent with a child at Maplehurst – assignments come home with a breakdown of outcomes assessed and how it breaks down (2, 3, 3+) in more specific criteria. This is sometimes happening at NFS, but not consistent across different instructors and grade levels. Admin can encourage more of this.

Four “Supplementary Positions of Responsibility” allocated to the school to support school improvement initiatives. Amanda Pearson – focusing on behaviour/SEL. Charity Stillman – focus on K-2 Literacy & structured literacy. Jill Fraser – 3-5 literacy. Tanya McMahon – K-5 math. Lynn Reid to support numeracy, creating resources that align with the new curriculum.

Question – defining holistic curriculum. Learning, but also developing as human beings – social emotional learning, synthesis across different content areas, etc. It would be good to clarify this for the parent community at large, because it is opaque. Where did it come from? What are its origins – does it come from another province that has a track record of success that New Brunswick can aspire to?

Behaviour tracking – identifying and reporting to identify who needs support, what interventions are needed.

Parent communication – drafting communication around what to expect regarding boundaries and availability of teachers. Managing expectations around how long a person should have to respond to parent communication. The necessity for parents to sign in at the office. Link to collaborative problem solving model, shared understanding of skills that students should display, ideas of what interventions are used. Share the things that NFS is doing already (e.g. three lunches and recesses to reduce numbers on the playground, to reduce conflict)

Proposal – could the PSSC work as a filter or a megaphone for the school. Supporting communication – can we facilitate that in a way that would smooth the process for both the parent community and the school community? Tina will send the proposed communication letter to the PSSC for previewing and commentary. We can look at it through an alternative lens.

School would like advocacy for mental health services and support for students.

Mohammed shared information regarding war in Gaza – links for documentaries.

Adjourned at 1945

Next Meeting – Thursday January 18, 2024