Meeting Minutes – PSSC – Northrop Frye School

**Thursday January 18th, 2024, 6PM**

Attendees: Melissa Thompson, Tina Landry, Jennifer Silk, Natalie Ward, Michelle Johnson, Ryan Francis, Janica Bernard, Melissa Lavigne, Pam Nacpil

Regrets: Mark Owen, Tara Glencross, Amanda Pearson, Mohammad Dawoud, Lauren Wilson

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

* Additions:
  + December Evacuation
  + PSSC Meeting w Brian Butler & Dave Steeves
  + Q&A with Superintendent
  + Sidewalks
  + Tree Memorial
  + Budget

**Approval of the Minutes**

* Change ‘instructors’ to teachers on page 2.
* Motion to Approve – Melissa Thompson
* Seconded by – Melissa Lavigne

**Discussion**

Principal Summary

With the return of space, huddles are happening again for grade level goals. Meetings coming between our math SPR (Supplementary Position of Responsibility) & our ESTR (Education Support Teacher Resource) with staff from Maplehurst to align and support student learning. Teachers are completing a book study on collaborative problem solving (“The School Discipline Fix”) as part of their professional development. As a school, they are undertaking an initiative that moves their approach towards responsibility-centered discipline. To ensure effective use of these strategies, the school is creating a change and implementation plan – piloting the problem-solving model with teachers who can then support implementation school-wide. Scaffolding support with guidance counsellors and behaviour mentors. The origin of this initiative is the social-emotional goal in the School Improvement Plan.

Staffing change – academic support teachers have been added to the staff roster. Natalie Chevarie moved into the Academic Support position. New teacher will start tomorrow in Ms. Chevarie’s grade five class, and there is a transition plan in place. The role of the academic support teacher is varied, including things such as co-teaching with other teachers, data collection, and targeted intervention, etc. NC’s focus will be on grades 3-5 literacy. Lynn focuses on math, and other ESTRs focus on lower grade levels. What do they do? Follow the data – K-2 building blocks of reading based on the science of reading. Assessments for phonemic & phonological awareness, fluency, comprehension, etc. Teachers assess, information put in information data system, gaps are pinpointed (individual level). Data drives interventions on the part of academic support teachers. Could be coteaching (differentiation through small groups), pulling out students for small group or one on one support. PSSC question re: funding stability. Uncertain. Contracts are until June. PSSC question: what access do we have to this data? What gaps do we see, and how does that map against the provincial assessment data? Potential for PSSC to advocate for the continued funding of this role.

School’s response to tragic event. Following the death of a student over the winter break, support offered through the district, other schools, home and school, and other avenues. School will continue to monitor emotional response and support as needed.

Extracurriculars underway. Lots of variety – clubs and kindergarten buddies, etc.

Enrollment: 893. PSSC concerned that this is not tenable. We are hungry to advocate for change – school caps, lower class sizes, intervention and support for dysregulated students and academic gaps. Discussed political connections we can address – MLAs, ministers, district leadership, etc.

Looking forward (boundaries and enrollment for next year) – what is the contingency plan if the new middle school does not open on time? None currently in place. District staff are not suggesting the school could be delayed at this time.

Next year – extended day for K-2. Concerned for transportation – what will happen for bussing, etc.?

Parent communication – teachers concerned with parents sometimes not responding, not sending report cards back signed, etc. Ms. Landry provided a parent communication draft and asked members of the PSSC to review and provide feedback as soon as possible.

Pink shirt day shirts: PSSC has positive feedback for the t-shirt options for pink shirt day. We would like to ensure that students whose families have limited means can still access the shirts. The school is aware of students with socioeconomic challenges. PSSC could fund if admin could provide us with an estimate of how many we are talking about.

PSSC Chair Updates

Letter sent in December to DEC asking them to help us petition for funding schools in North End Moncton. As there has not been a lot of action as a result, the chair suggested that we could follow up again with another. Members in attendance supportive.

Proposal: repurposing of February meeting time to meet with city councillors. We would plan to discuss specific concerns we’ve raised regarding safety: crosswalk, etc. The feedback we have gotten from transportation officials has not yet been helpful.

Proposal: inviting a Q & A with Randy MacLean

Proposal: Memorial tree for Tate who passed away. School is investigating options for memorial.

A PDF explaining exclusions for health concerns was recently distributed to parents. Anglophone North has a document that goes further to explain how to identify these illnesses. We will investigate if that information is available on Public Health and can share if we find it.

Adjourned at 19:24

Next Meeting – TBD as we determine availability for PSSC members and city councillors.