PSSC Meeting Minutes

April 23rd, 2015

Present: Zoella Vienneau, Kathy Williston, Jonathan Guimond, Kelley MacDonald, and Christine MacKenzie

Absent: Gill Wallace

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Review of last meeting minutes (accepted and adopted)
3. Presentation and discussion of Teacher Perception survey results for 2014-2015. Area for improvement would be PLC (Professional Learning Communities) time. This is currently difficult with a small staff but looking at how it could possibly fit within the day to encourage more intentional collaboration amongst staff. Discussed possibly joining another small school in order for staff to have time to collaborate with other teachers at the same grade level and the possibility for common assessment practices.
4. Presentation and discussion of the TTFM (Tell Them From Me) surveys completed by students in grades 4-8. We noticed a decrease in student involvement in school organized sports. Currently, it is difficult to offer sports due to a small number of students interested or able to participate due to transportation conflicts. We need to look at offering alternative activities and clubs to promote a positive sense of belonging to the school community.

It was also discussed that students rated low with regards to homework habits. At the primary level this is not an issue as homework is sent home weekly and a regular part of the routine. As students reach the upper elementary to middle school, homework becomes less of a priority. It was shared by one member that as students get older the homework becomes more difficult and many parents are unable to help their children as the methods of solving problems, especially in Math have changed since they were in school. We also discussed the possibility of scheduling a study block at middle school which would conform to the middle school model throughout the rest of the district. This would mean that after students eat lunch, they would return to their homeroom to complete homework or work on assignments.

Another area that was noted dealt with issues of bullying. The TTFM survey indicated that there are issues with bullying within the grade 5 classroom. The benefit of being a small school is that we are able to identify the conflict occurring with this group of friends and will have our Guidance Counselor deliver a program that discusses bullying vs. conflict.

The next concern is that students at both elementary and middle school do not always feel safe either at school or on the way to and from school. The survey does not distinguish between whether the issue is at school, or during the commute to and from, therefore, we will conduct a survey to better address this need.

1. A reminder of the DEC supper to take place on May 13th at the Gowan Brae Golf and Country Club in Bathurst. Meet and greet begins at 5:30pm with supper staring at 7:00. Joey Savoie will be the guest presenter (Social Media).
2. Next meeting: June 4th, 2015 @ 6pm
3. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm by Jonathan Guimond.