

**Carleton North High School**

**30 School Street, Florenceville-Bristol, N.B.**

**PSSC Minutes**

**Date: January 22, 2024 Time: 6:30 pm**

**Location: TEAMS virtual meeting**

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| **PSSC Members Present:**Tara OrchardKaren GuestLisa WolvertonCorinne KilfoilSherry BrennanConnie SmithHeather ChaseVictoria HuttDerek Tracey, Teacher Rep Kiersten Orchard, SRC**PSSC Members Regrets:**Brian McLeanMary Maduapera | **School/DEC Representation Present:**Jason Smith, Principal Jana Brennan, Vice-PrincipalThomas Geburt, DEC**School/DEC Representation Regrets:****Guest Speaker**: |

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Tara Orchard at 6:35 pm.

**Celebrations**: Coop Students have had a successful semester working in a variety of businesses throughout our community. Hugh thanks to community members and businesses who have given them the opportunity to work a long side them and learn. Calm and peaceful return to school after the Christmas break.

**Approval of the Agenda:**  Karen Guest moved to accept the agenda. Sherry Brennan seconded. Motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Karen Guest moved to accept the minutes and seconded by Sherry Brennan. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** Eclipse on April 8, 2024, use of school during that time.

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**Business Arising from Minutes**: Guest Speaker Ian Tyson was at the school on November 29, 2023. Very well received. Great message for the students. Connie Smith attended and said it was awesome. Great energy, great message/interaction with the students. She thought it was a great investment from PSSC. Kiersten Orchard thought students were engaged.

DEC Vacancy – Thomas Geburt says DEC is still searching. No one has responded to request for interest in this position. He is assigning other councilors to attend PSSC meetings in the area. Jason to send out message to community.

**New Business: Family Engagement**

Truancy Rates – In looking at academic data, we've been reviewing a number of things including our attendance and the reality is we are seeing an increase in overall absenteeism, in truancy with our student body and that is impacting academic performance which impacts the decisions that we make around assessment week and how we help students become successful in passing before graduation. On any given day there is an average 17-23% absentee rate. There is no policy around absences. We do look at alternate learning plans and we look at it from social, emotional, behavioral and medical reasons. So what I'd like to do if we could, is brainstorm some ideas from you folks, about how do we engage these outlying families that make up a significant portion of our absentee issue and our students in our classroom issue. We are going to do about a 30 minute problem solving session.

**Question** - Are these unexplained absences, or are these all absences?

**Jason Smith** – All unexplained absences.

**Question** – So we're talking about stuff outside of sick days and that sort of thing?

**Jason Smith** – Right, no communication from homes. We send letters, email letters, phone calls.

We meet with the students individually. We try to encourage them to see where the issues are so that we can support and we don't get a lot of interaction with the families on the other side.

We have a lot of students who bring vehicles to school. Some of these students come and go as they please, leaving through other doors so we don’t always see them going.

**Question** - I have two questions.

The increase in mental health issues in youth, would that be an impact on some of these truancies? And the other question is, what feedback does the students get from the teacher or from administration after they return, say the next day or something?

**Jason Smith** - Yes, there are definitely concerns around mental health. We are working with the ISP members. We get direct feedback every week as a member of the team speaks with our student services team. They generally communicate to the school counselor on a regular basis, so she's bringing feedback to Jana and I and to the team about students that have ongoing mental health concerns. The ones that we know reach a bit of a critical limit, we will get a medical note from the service provider and with that in mind, if there's a medical note, we look at an altered day in terms of sometimes it's a partial day at school to do the other work in the afternoon with the medical note, we will apply through district for a tutor and a home hospital tutor. What do we do when students return? So each student services member is assigned a portion of the alphabet of our students, and we will be at those students and try to determine what is it they need from us to help them be successful and to be at school. So that could be connecting them with the service provider. They may be having difficult challenges with their academic work and

they need to have some adaptions made. There are a number of things that we will explore and try to help them sort things out.

**Jason Smith** - Our engagement numbers from our student surveys are important to look at. Engagement is a piece of the solution and certainly with the career connected learning piece, the file that we're going through with Sarah McLellan, that's what we were hoping we would be able to build that in more successful and make that connection to the real world even more clear with them and why the courses and things their learning are important and how they're going to connect to them.

**Question** - Do you have any data regarding how many kids arrive on the bus and then take off from there and where do they hang out in local area? And the second question, have you done any comparison with other rural high schools with regard to truancy rates or absenteeism rates to see if there's some sort of correlation, I can tell you that one of the schools I went to recently, they had a fairly significant absenteeism rate.

**Jason Smith** - Yes we network with most of the schools, often our valley on a fairly weekly basis. Principles and Vice-Principals emailing back and forth asking a series of questions. As far as getting off the buses in the morning, the majority of our students do come on the bus. We have a teacher on duty and if the student leaves the bus loading area and heads towards the parking lot, staff are on it.

**Statement**: I wonder if part of finding a little bit of a solution with some of them is if you do reach out to those adults of those children to reiterate to them, you know you can call, you can maybe email, find a way to support them, to say it's OK to call in, just give us a heads up and let us know maybe why that child's not coming to school.

**Alternate Learning Plans** – We do alternate learning plans for those students with social, emotional, behavioral and medical reasons. Teachers are responsible for these students and support them.

**PSSC Budget** – We have $662.00 remaining to spend. How do we want to spend? Needs to be spent before end of March. A couple ideas suggested by Jason. We have another guest speaker coming in April and the topic will be vaping. We are joining with other schools in the area to bring this speaker in. In April Chris Hadfield will be in the area for the Eclipse and all feeder schools will be brought to CN for a presentation. Maybe think over and we will discuss at the next meeting how to spend the remaining money. Vote taken for everyone in favor that we defer that decision until next meeting.

**School Reports:**

a) Principal’s Report – see attached document

b) SRC Report – see attached document

c) Staff Report – see attached document

**Other Business:** Exam week and extracurricular activities during this time. Practices are allowed to happen during this time but no games. Who decided this and is it province wide or individual schools? There isn't a provincial standard, and every school has their own task on how they're handling practices and games. At CN practices will happen but it is optional to attend and there is to be no penalty for not attending.

Where does the funding come from to be able to support families with gifts and food at Christmas time? The money comes from donors within the community.

**Date of Next Meeting:** February 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Library

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm

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**PSSC Chair Date**

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**PSSC Secretary Date**