EPS PSSC Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2023 (Virtual meeting via Teams)

Minutes Recorded By: Deanna O’Donnell

In attendance:

* Antigone Panagiotakis
* Alan Bechervaise
* Chelsey Cougle
* Evan Dignam
* Melissa Dignam
* Dhavita Filek
* Deanna O’Donnell
* Jillian Porter

Regrets:

* Alisha Arsalan
* Iryna Babiak
* Terri Cail
* Natasha Hebert
* Lorraine Hines
* Mallary Soon

Meeting Agenda and Notes:

* Welcome new members
* Team roles (chairs, secretary, meetings)
* How we plan to work this session
* Areas of focus (school plan, traffic flow foot and vehicle)
* Updates to the navigation site
* General overview of the school plan and previous test scores

Principal Summary:

* Great start to the school year
* Started the school year with 4 split grade classes. Now there are 2 split grade classes.

Introduce all members and welcome new members:

* Alan Bechervaise (co-chair, non-voting member)
* Deanna O’Donnell (co-chair)
* Dhavita Filek (returning member)
* Jillian Porter (new member)
* Evan Dignam (new member)
* Melissa Dignam (new member)
* Chelsey Cougle (returning member)

Principal Update (see attached notes):

* There has been growth in the Educational Support Services (ESS) Teams at EPS to meet the needs of the growing student population. Some FTE was reconfigured to make the new Social Emotional Learning (SEL) teacher role.
  + 2.5 administrators
  + Dr. Nelson – Behaviour Mentor
  + Mrs. Perry
  + Mrs. Wadden – SEL Teacher (new to role at EPS)
* Two full time Administrative Assistants in the office
* Approval for 25 full time Educational Assistants (EA)
* Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports (PBIS) document is called *EPS is a great place to shine*
* EPS approach to manage behaviours and discipline is to try to be proactive
  + e.g Mrs. Frenette has the same messaging on the morning announcements “We like to share. Hands are for Helping. If it hurts it is wrong…”. This messaging carries throughout the children’s day in the classroom and hallways.
  + e.g. Last year created “Recess Camp” for 6-7 students whos’ behaviours hindered their ability to be successful independently on the playground. These children worked with an EA to learn what recess looks like and appropriate behaviours. Supports were gradually removed as students improved. This year those students no longer need one-on-one supervision on the playground at recess.
  + E.g. the former grade 8 hallways for science are now spaces for the ESS students
* Physical Education
  + The size of gym limits the number of Physical Education hours that are possible per class.
  + EPS has registered for “[Take Me Outside](https://takemeoutside.ca/)”, a program to help teachers and schools incorporate nature and outside play to increase the minutes of physical play.
* The school’s main fundraisers is the Walk-A-Thon, which is on Halloween
  + Goal is to raise $10K
  + A part of that money will go to Home and School towards buying 1 piece of equipment for the playground
    - The hope is between Home and School and the fundraiser there will be $15000 to purchase one piece of equipment.
    - Students will vote and their opinion will be considered in the equipment selection.
    - Swings have been mentioned by children, with adult concern for safety. A comment in the Teams chat noted that swings improve children’s vestibular systems, which improves reading and literacy skills.
  + Another portion of that money will go to new technology
* Two concerts are booked: Bilingual concert at Christmas
* School Improvement Plan has four goals:
  + All students are at grade level for literacy\*
  + All students are at grade level for numeracy\*
  + All students feel connected to one adult in the school
    - Goal based on grade 4 and 5 assessment in 2021-2022
  + All students graduate
  + The results from the English reading assessment were less than expected (see attached notes). Teachers discussed possible reasons for the drop in scores (online format was new, more English Language Learners)
  + All grade level teams are working on their grade level literacy and numeracy goals. Currently in early stages of plans for data assessment.
  + PSSC members have questions about literacy curriculum and the new assessment for K-2 reading skills, EGLA (Early Grades Literacy Assessment)

Deliverables/Action Items:

* Antigone will ask the English Prime Literacy Coordinator for K-5 in AESD to speak for 15 minutes at our next meeting to explain the current practice in reading and literacy and the EGLA reading assessment
* PSSC agreed to hold meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Next meetings are…
  + Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm on Teams
  + Wednesday, December, 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm on Teams
  + Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm on Teams
  + Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm on Teams
  + Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm on Teams
  + Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm on Teams
  + Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm on Teams
* The role of secretary will rotate through the group. The schedule will go through the voting membership in alphabetical order by last name, starting with Deanna O’Donnell
  + Jillian Porter on Wednesday, November 15, 2023
  + Mallary Soon on Wednesday, December, 20, 2023
  + Alisha Arsalan on Wednesday, January 17, 2024
  + Iryna Babiak on Wednesday, February 21, 2024
  + Atif Butt on Wednesday, March 20, 2024
  + Terri Cail on Wednesday, April 17, 2024
  + Chelsey Cougle on Wednesday, May 15, 2024