

PSSC Meeting December 20, 2023

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7:02 PM

In Attendance

Alan Bechervaise, Co-chair EPS PSSC
Deanna O'Donnell, Co-chair EPS PSSC
Evan Dignam, PSSC member
Melissa Dignam, PSSC member
Jillian Porter, PSSC member
Mark Owen, DEC representative
Amanda Smith West, EPS teacher
Antigone Panagiotakis, EPS principal
Heather Hollett, K-5 English Literacy Coordinator

Regrets:

Chelsey Cogle, PSSC member
Dhavita Filek, PSSC member

1. Presentation outlining Early Grades Literacy Assessment (EGLA)

by Heather Hollett, K-5 English Literacy Coordinator

- EGRA created by EECD (provincial department who creates curriculum)
- Historically students have been tested in a grade two provincial literacy assessment. There has been notation that the assessment does not accurately reflect students progress
- EGRA assesses 82 foundational reading skills from kindergarten to grade two across five categories. In some cases, grade three to five teachers are using it to see where there are gaps from kindergarten to grade two curriculum, and to support the student in getting caught up.
- It's a formative assessment to guide an educator's instruction (not meant to assess on report card)
- The intention is that at the end of grade two, students will have mastered all 82 reading skills

2. Committee Size

- PSSC can be a group of up to twelve members.
 - We have seven members consistently participating in the last three meetings this school year.
 - Discussed advising school community we have up to five open seats and are seeking volunteers. Mrs. Panagiotakis said she can send communication through email and talk mail on our behalf.
 - January meeting could be hosted in person at the school so that parents could join meeting with no commitment.
 - Home and School is also struggling with membership, perhaps joint communication could go out.
 - **MOTION APPROVED:** Communication to be sent in early January to advise EPS parents that we need three to five parents to join PSSC.

- **ACTION:** Melissa will draft communication to be circulated with current membership early January.

3. Student Survey - Perception of Safety at School

- Students were surveyed over a two-week period in December.
- Younger grades were individually surveyed. They used pictures for them to identify adults/staff that they had personal connectedness to.
- **ACTION:** It was questioned if other schools are also working on this issue in their school improvement plans. Mrs. Panagiotakis is going to ask at the next Principal's meeting in January. If so, she will get details on how they are measuring it.

4. New West End School - EPS zoned grade 6 to 8 students

In advance of the meeting, the following questions were circulated by Jillian. Mrs. Panagiotakis sought answers from Randolph MacLEAN, Superintendent, Anglo East in advance of the meeting (which was greatly appreciated). Answers in blue.

- *What is the current projected completion date of the new West End Middle School?*
 - *July 2024*
- *When is the new West End Middle School projected to be open to teaching staff and students?*
 - *September 2024*
- *Will there be any boundary changes to include EPS zoned grade 6-8 students who currently live close to Maplehurst Middle School (walking distance)?*
 - *No planned changes. Superintendent informed that PSSC should not be asking questions about boundaries, they are to focus on school improvement plan only. Mark Owen, DEC representative for Moncton North schools explained that PSSC chairs were consulted in the re-configuration in spring 2023 because re-configuration of schools requires public consultation. Boundary changes do not require any consultation. It was noted that there is a gap in mandate and forum to cover school concerns outside of the school improvement plan – parents see the full school journey and students' experiences from kindergarten to grade 12, where should those concerns be addressed? Mrs. Panagiotakis suggested parents individually call the Superintendent and Mark Owen said he would attempt to attend more EPS PSSC meetings so he can represent these concerns at DEC meetings. Example: development and population growth in the North End (and across the city) impacting walking distance students to be re-routed via bus to a school outside of the community.*
- *Could the Evergreen Park administration and PSSC begin receiving a brief monthly progress update on state of transition readiness for projected opening date?*
 - *Information sessions will be held with impacted families in January.*
 1. On Wednesday, January 31st at 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Bernice MacNaughton High School, the Superintendent/CEO and members of the Senior Leadership team will be holding an information session to review these changes, processes, and timelines in greater detail to provide further clarity, as we know these changes were made and communicated several months ago.

2. To ensure that we make the best use of our time together, we invite you to submit your registration to ask questions. Please email your full name and the school you are representing to asdeinfo@nbed.nb.ca and be prepared with up to two (2) questions. Our Director of Communications, Stephanie Patterson, will confirm your registration and provide you with the order of questions as we approach the date of the information session.

- *When will the administration team for the New West End Middle School be selected?*
 - *No response provided.*
- *What actions are being taken to secure incremental buses and bus drivers to support the increase in students who will be taking buses to the new West End Middle School as well as all students from K-5 being dismissed at the same time?*
 - *No response provided. Mrs. Panagiotakis mentioned that schools are considering options for start/end times to support efficient use of buses. She submitted EPS' recommendations (maintain the same) and will advise PSSC when they are approved.*

Recommendation was made that grade 5 welcome events for the new school be planned. Mrs. Panagiotakis felt that the activities that typically happen for grade 5 students would be carried out in the spring even if the building was not prepared.

It was decided that no further action would be taken at this time and we will await parent information sessions in January to seek more information.

5. School Dismissal 2024-25

- Kindergarten to grade 5 may all be dismissed at the same time in 2024-25.
- This adds considerable instruction time for K-2 which is positive.
- Mrs. Panagiotakis is already talking to staff about options to safely get all students out the door at the same time.
- They have concerns over transportation and safety at the school given there will be more parents there to collect students.
- Parents continue to park in unsafe places unless Mrs. Panagiotakis is physically present to redirect them.
- Topic to be re-visited in 2024.

6. Safety: Sidewalk at Kiss and Ride

- Sidewalk isn't large enough for teachers to unload students from cars while walking families walk behind them. During the winter the water run off from the cafeteria roof creates icy conditions between the sidewalk and the building (the area that families used to circumvent and get around the kiss and ride walking traffic.)
- Cafeteria doors are used at the end of the day to dismiss grade 2 students and because there is limited sidewalk in this area parents congregate in the kiss in ride lane.
- Mrs. Panagiotakis mentioned a report was completed a number of years ago with recommendations that were never implemented by District.
- **MOTION APPROVED** : Mark to request at the next DEC meeting that the sidewalk be expanded from the kiss and ride lane to the side of the school. It is expected this would be under \$10k.

- ACTION: Jillian to send pictures and details to Mark to provide context of the ask.
- In the interim until paving could occur in the spring suggestion that kiss and ride be reduced to one lane with pylon barriers in the lane closest to the school and teachers step out into the blocked lane to unload kids from cars. Mrs. Panagiotakis to discuss with staff to get their ideas and thoughts.

7. Christmas Families

- Greater need than in years past, 15+ families supported.
- Could not support all families therefore prioritized based on need.
- Staff did the shopping and wrapping.
- Some of the smaller asks that could not be supported teachers personally fulfilled.

8. Overcrowding in North End

- Background:
 - NFS penned a letter asking the DEC to petition province for incremental funding for school builds given the capacity needs in Moncton and in particular the North End.
 - NFS met with EPS and Maplehurst PSSC chairs to discuss a joint letter in October.
 - Maplehurst PSSC shared with their membership, voted and signed in joint-support.
 - EPS PSSC chairs felt the letter was outside of mandate of PSSC and no further action was taken.
 - Joint letter from NFS and MMS was sent in November to the DEC.
 - EPS Chairs shared letter with EPS PSSC membership end of November.
- It was questioned if we should vote on supporting the letter however a vote was not warranted as the letter had already been sent to the DEC therefore no action to vote on.
- NSF and MMS were disappointed EPS did not follow typical governance and bring the topic forward to PSSC membership for discussion and vote. It was suggested if we wanted to be viewed as kind neighbors and be invited to collaborate with them on other initiatives in the future, it may be prudent to send a note to MMS and NFS and confirm EPS PSSC membership did not vote on the opportunity to send joint letter; however, it was discussed at December 20 meeting and the membership have now been made aware of MMS and NFS's actions to date.

9. Secretary

- Alan indicated he and Deanna are too busy to assemble agendas and take notes at meetings.
- Jillian will take notes and assemble agenda for future meetings, Melissa said as she learns more about PSSC she can also support.
- Deanna will continue to chair meetings.

ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING:

- Membership: Melissa will draft communication to be circulated with current membership early January.
- Sidewalk Expansion: Jillian to send pictures and details to Mark to provide context of the ask.
- Kiss and Ride Safety: Mrs. Panagiotakis to discuss with staff blocking one lane and using it to open car doors, teachers stand on street (not sidewalk)
- Student Safety/Inclusiveness Survey: Mrs. Panagiotakis is going to ask at the next Principal's meeting in January. If so, she will get details on how they are measuring it.
- Next Meeting - Alan to schedule in everyone's calendar.