

BIRCHMOUNT PSSC MEETING MINUTES

Monday December 11, 2023

Attendees:

Agbolade Dokunmu
Rowan Miller
Suzanne Steeves
Grant Bourque
Vivian Shannon

Tim Carson
Erin Miller
Craig Murphy
Owen Brinson
Melanie Doucet

Chima Okoroigwe
Sandra Savard
Lara Falana
Krista Young
Kelly Olaveson

Meeting started at 6:33 pm by Grant Bourque

1. Opening

- Introduction of Members - all attendees introduced by name
- Approval of last meetings minutes - approved by Owen Brinson

2. School

- General update from Sandra Savard (Principal)
 - Provided with a hardcopy of Principal's Report – Updates on Staffing and Homerooms, Student Life (Sports and Clubs) and Holiday Activities/Family Support.
 - Holiday Gift Mart - \$2 donation
 - Project Elf - Amazon Wishlist and donations Cash Online, more families to support
 - Food Drive
- Technology in and out of class i.e.: platforms/apps
 - Many different tech and apps used at school – not all staff use same apps, some teachers use multiple apps for different things.
 - Need consistent use of apps.
 - Parents miss information e.g., emails through apps.
 - Families of new students take time to figure out where information provided and learn how to use apps.
 - What if no computer at home or student uses parent's phone?
 - Information provided by paper at the start of the year (e.g., program logins and passwords) but information doesn't always match.
ACTION: Provide Parent Orientation e.g., videos to teach basics - Sandra to look at how to upload videos to school website.

3. School Property

- Homelessness and drug use on school property and training available for staff to navigate these issues
 - Grant followed up with Krista (could not make this meeting) about discussion from Oct 30/23 meeting – left open-ended with Krista

regarding school staff training, approximately 2hrs for Krista and her partner to train school staff to recognize and deal with drugs/paraphernalia found on the school property. Krista is flexible for time, look at new year. Sandra mentioned issue with when to schedule training as there is no 2hr block of time. Possible solution is to train in smaller blocks of time.

- Sandra mentioned Suzanne had NARC Training, Custodians have some NARC Training. Only Suzanne can use NARCAN as have to have training first before use.
- Sandra said since weather change (e.g., got colder), finding nothing on property. Suzanne mentioned questionable candy found in past. Sandra mentioned nearby encampments have been moved so potentially less issues on school property.

ACTION: Grant follow up with Dominic encourage District Training since problem will not go away.

ACTION: Grant, Krista and Sandra to plan training in new year, if timing allows.

- Safety around cross walk and safe drop off

- Krista (could not make this meeting) commented to Grant after last meeting concern about the school crosswalk and the safe drop off, especially in the morning. Sandra commented the end of day is worse.
- Concern with intersection close to school, not much time before drivers see buses.
- NBCC has 2 entrances/exits but 1 blocked so more people are using Ayer Ave.
- Possible solutions:
 - Move stop signs to school/closer to school.
 - Sandra asked RCMP Liaison to increase patrol at certain times of day, RCMP said they would try to patrol more (morning and both dismissal times 1:40 and 2:40).
 - Bus drivers can report cars not following rules, but bus camera records car not the driver.
 - Add speed bumps – help slow drivers down.
 - Better signage, flashing signs, more signs.
 - Have buses pull into driveway, was discussed in past but too chaotic. Normally there is a bus area at schools but not sure where to put one at Birchmount. Move buses to a side road? Sandra and Tim mentioned too far for Special Needs Students.
 - Use Crossing Guard with sign when buses at school and lights on, but safety issue for Crossing Guard.
 - Post on Pinehurst Facebook re: watch for buses, RCMP Patrol.

- Use curbs that jut out into road to slow drivers.

ACTION: Grant to follow up with city regarding implementation of safety measures and talk to Dominic.

- Accessibility (barrier free in school)

- Erin mentioned concern about events at school (e.g., Craft Market) coming in through front doors with stairs, mobility issues. Used to have a ramp but likely not to current code, what are current regulations? With addition of elevator, got rid of ramp, elevator accessible from inside and outside. Elevator inspected 1/year, 2 person capacity (e.g., 1 person and aid). Concern about accessibility for parents, students, staff and public. Loophole – old school buildings grandfathered.
- Erin suggested informing people about elevator and accessibility to make school more welcoming.
- Portables not accessible, parts of building not accessible. As a result, had to move students to other building locations (e.g., for music).
- Suzanne mentioned there is a heads up for Fire Drills. Tim and Sandra mentioned Evac Chair used in emergencies.
- What are current regulations?

ACTION: Sandra to put out information about accessibility to make school more welcoming and who/how to contact when using accessibility features (e.g., elevator).

4. PSSC Funds

- PSSC has funds approximately \$550.00.
- Could be used for:
 - Food at meetings
 - Function of PSSC
 - Training (e.g., Parenting Course, Cooking Class)
 - Increase awareness of PSSC and what it does
 - Family Game Night to support Family Literacy, with PSSC donation? Could provide snacks, drinks and games (give away or keep for future?). Could have an author in to read, different classrooms with different activities. Have shorter-played games, students can read instructions, cards, etc. Have TLC help?

ACTION: Sandra to reach out to Craig, SVR Committee, TLC.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday February 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Meeting ended at 7:34 pm by Grant Bourque

I trust that the above reflects an accurate account of our meeting. In the event that further clarifications are required or that any items are missing, please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Olaveson