



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

BLISS CARMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
615 Kimble Drive
Fredericton, NB
E3B 0N4
Parent School Support Committee
MINUTES
Tuesday, June 4th, 2024
Bliss Carman Middle School

<p>PSSC Members Present:</p> <p>Ronnie Stewart (Chair), Amber Gilliss (Secretary), Effat Sabry, Mohamed Badawy, Ahmed Ouf, Sara Moharrum, Jamie Yeamans, Iman Abdelmoaty</p> <p>PSSC Members Regrets: Hanny Mahmoud</p>	<p>School/DEC Representation Present:</p> <p>Chantale Cloutier, Principal</p> <p>School/DEC Representation: Wallace Carr</p>
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- **Call to order @6:20pm**
 - Motion by Ronnie
 - Seconded by Amber

- **Approval of the agenda**
 - Motion by Amber
 - Seconded by Effat

- **Approval of the minutes from previous meeting (November)**
 - Motion by Jamie
 - Seconded by Ahmed

- **Business arising from the past minutes:**
 - None

- **Other Business**
 - None

- **Principal's report: (Shared in meeting)**
 - Date Walk on April 14th – Core Leadership (made up of a member of each team (6 Prime, 6 FI, EA's etc.)
 - Points of Celebration: Opportunities for students, Happiness, positivity amongst students and staff, students have a voice, cultural diversity.
 - Areas of focus: Chronic absenteeism (new since Covid), support for non-English learners (need more support for students who come and do not speak English), phones are a distraction (new policy coming) and Mental health – need more support.
 - The first point of focus is battling chronic absenteeism. Presently 134 bliss students have missed 10%+ time (this excludes those who traveled, and the school was made aware)
 - Staffing:
 - The population for 2024-2025 is already 625 – assume to be 650 again.
 - 25 home room classes (12FI and 13 Prime)
 - Few vacancies to be filled – a couple of teachers are on leave (educational and otherwise) – they will start with mutual transfers first, those who want to change schools. Then go on to hire D contracts.
 - School Hours 2024-2025
 - Bliss Carmen: Doors open at 8:20, 1st bus at 8:55, classes begin at 9:20, 3:40 end. Last bus leaves at 4:05
 - Stressful - the school day has changed, lunch is 5 minutes shorter, AIT is cut (this was well used time for extra help/homework) Worried about the students and the staff. That is a long day – when do you do extra-curricular activities. Parents are concerned as well.
 - No part of the collective agreement requires teachers to volunteer their time for sports or clubs.
 - PSSC:
 - Amber's last meeting – “Thank you Amber”
 - Hanny Mahmoud's last meeting (absent) “Thank you Hanny”
- **DEC Report:**
 - **Busing and school hours for 2024-2025**
 - Busing –for school hours to remain status quo they would require 18 additional buses and staff/drivers. Presently short drivers and 12 retired this year. This is just not a realistic option.
 - Canceling Wednesday/Friday afternoons off for Elementary schools. This has been lost in court more than once. How about doing it in middle schools? 77% of teachers agreed – it was required to be unanimous. This is not on the table.
 - Amber – what about using public transit?
 - This did not come up, but worth mentioning in their June meeting.
 - Electric Busses – 22 in NB, 10 in Saint John and 12 in Moncton.
 - Wallace shared the Recommendations shared in their last meeting with the Department of Education (slide show to follow) and timeline for implementation.

- Beginning April 2024
 - Improve Retention & recruitment of qualified teachers and specialized service professionals in education.
 - Having Teachers degrees to be equal across provinces.
 - Recruiters are working with Universities in Maine to bring teachers here. Next would be New Hampshire, Vermont etc.
 - French Language Improvement
 - Change up when they start, 30 minutes of French daily. Exploring options.
 - Using Technology
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- July 2024
 - Chronic Absenteeism
 - Enforce the Education Act
 - New Classroom Composition Model and a reasonable timeline to implement an improved inclusive and equitable system.
 - Focus on middle school learners (11-14) by working to identify actions and programs to improve academic achievement, engagement, and well-being.
 - Encouraging Physical Activity.
 - Support for Educational Assistants with dedicated training, professional development.
 - Positive Behaviour Intervention
 - 10% decrease in serious issues
 - Helped with chronic absenteeism.
- October 2024
 - Centre of Excellence for Language Learning development of a communication and support plan to help families and communities assist their children in their success in French Immersion.
- April 2025
 - Early Reader Support
 - Professional Learning
- Other notes of interest during our conversation with Wallace:
 - Their upcoming June 27th meeting they hope to have the Operating Budget 2023-2024 was \$308,000. Expecting approx. \$320,000 for 2024-2025. 85% is spent on staff.
 - DEC had 2 vacancies. One is filled, the other is ours and still vacant.
 - Capital Budget – this year was \$110,000,000, 2024-2025 \$187,000,000, 2025-2026 potentially double. Costs are increasing – used to cost \$22,000,000 to build a school, now it's upwards of \$65,000,000.
 - The student population in NB has increased 7000 between 2021 and 2023. They are expecting an additional 8000 by 2026.
 - They cannot build schools fast enough.
 - Modular Options, build entire schools this way to add as required?

- June or September they should see the school specs/requirements and approve to send out for design plans for Liverpool/Forest Hill school. Potentially building in summer of 2025. The Liverpool site is the suggested location.
 - Cuffman St Elementary (northside be Leo) set to open in September.
 - Carleton K-8 is going out to bid soon.
 - #5 on the List is George Street Middle School, location? Specs to come out this fall.
 - #15 is - Oromocto K-8: close all the other schools and open one large (6-8 years out)
 - #20 is Devon Middle School.
- **Date of Next Meetings:**
 - to be determined in Fall 2024
 - **Adjournment @ 7:15**
 - Motion by Ronnie
 - Seconded by Amber

Have a Safe and Happy Summer!

