

South Edwardsburg Public School

Safe and Accepting School Team Meeting

October 27, 2022



Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions
2. Agenda Review (Additions / Deletions)
3. Review of the SEPS Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan (updated 2022-23)
4. School Climate Data (if available – collected October 21)
5. Discussion / Suggestions

Minutes

1. Attendance

- ✓ Ian Morris (Principal)
- ✓ Nancy Messenger (Teacher)
- ✓ Lukas Hernandez (Student)
- ✓ Regina Hernandez (Parent)
- ✓ Hector Hernandez (Parent)
- X Angela Pittman-Workman (Office Administrator)
- X Dave Holmes (OPP)

2. Agenda Review Complete – no additions or deletions

3. Review and Discussion

- Discussion on the importance of a safe school climate.
- Review of the definition of bullying, including cyberbullying.
 - Regressive and typically repeated behaviour of a pupil.
 - Power imbalance
 - Known or ought to have known to be harmful.
 - Examples of aggressive behaviours.
- Data Review
 - Climate survey completed on October 21st, 2022.
 - Students generally feel like they belong, are engaged, and feel cared for.
 - Students feel safe at school (67 out of 72 surveyed)
 - Students feel most safe in their classrooms.
 - Students feel least safe on the bus, bathroom, and school yard.

- LH made the following suggestions:
 - Students may not feel safe if they cannot be seen on the yard, for example, behind the hill and beyond the baseball diamond.
 - Staff could move more towards the back of the school yard.
- Ms. Messenger indicated that they were not allow past the baseball diamond in the past.
- Mr. Morris indicated that staff members watch the yard in zones with proximity to the play structures, soccer yard, and sand pit being a priority. Staff in the zone closest to the Junior Yard could sweep students from the areas where students are the furthest.
- LH indicated that students may not feel safe in the bathroom due to the mess (paper towels, water, etc.) that is sometimes found on the floor. Students may climb on the toilets or urinals, or maybe look under the stalls.
- Mrs. Hernandez suggested that signs be placed in the washroom to encourage proper behaviours (e.g. throw out paper towel, respect privacy, etc.)
- Ms. Hernandez indicated that the bus might be very loud, causing stress and feelings of not being safe.
- Mr. Morris indicated that many efforts to support a safe bus ride are underway and that we support our drivers and students travel to and from school safely.
- Goals were established with action items included.
 - Improve feelings of safety for those riding the bus. (Checking back in with student who identify the bus as a concern in the new year).
 - Improve feelings of safety for student on the yard and washroom. (Checking back in with student who identify the washroom as a concern in the new year).
 - Connect all students with a caring adult at school who identified that they didn't have one.
- [continued] Review of Prevention Strategies, Reporting Mechanisms, and our Responses.
- Mr. Hernandez inquired what supports are there for both students in a bullying situation. Mr. Morris provided examples of how each would be supported. For example, a student who was bullying would face consequences, but would also be connected with supports (as appropriate and with parental support) such as mental health connections, connections with other agencies such as RNJ (e.g. anger management), or school delivered and evidence based supports such as Everyday Speech (e.g. Problem Solving Skills module).
- A second meeting would be scheduled in the spring to review progress on our goals.
 - Meeting ended 7:55pm.