

# MINUTES

## **Fairvale Elementary School, Parent School Support Committee**

*May 9, 2013*

The meeting was called to order by Liz Tait at 7:30PM in Mrs. Romeo's classroom.

### **In attendance**

Judy Kilpatrick, Bonnie Hierlihy, Robin Kirkpatrick, Charlotte Pierce, Liz Tait (chairperson), Jana Comeau (note taker).

### **Regrets**

Heather Tait, Dwayne Branch, Brian Lordon, Tricia Wilson, Tracey MacPherson

### **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of April 10, 2013 minutes:

- Approval of minutes was moved by R. Kirkpatrick and seconded by J. Comeau.

### **Business Arising from Minutes**

- L. Tait inquired about who was going to be sending out updates on the new Twitter account. B. Hierlihy to include in next newsletter.
- C. Pierce mentioned that the issue of some of the language in the Tell Them From Me surveys was difficult for grade 4 students was discussed at DEC. The same survey is used for students from grades 4-12 to create benchmarks but some of the contextual questions might be challenging for the earlier grades to fully comprehend.

### **Administration Updates (B. Hierlihy)**

1. Ends Policy #3 – Numeracy
  - Screeners/benchmarks are run 3 times per year; flexible groupings are used to accommodate learning competencies of students based on screeners. Flexible groups may be within class or across grade level. Benchmarks are based on a 15 point scale.
    - R. Kirkpatrick inquired whether feedback on benchmarks goes back to students. J. Kilpatrick indicated that they are really more of a tool for teachers to guide instruction to achieve overall grade level competencies.
  - Cathy Wallace is the Math Lead this year, and is at FES on Tuesdays. Resource teacher also has an increased focus on math instead of just literacy this year.
  - Math mapping was adopted this year from former District 8. Math maps now come out monthly for teachers from District office – maps come as 2 page documents that maps out learning outcomes and curriculum for the month, and assures a higher level of consistency across classes and schools.
  - PLC teams are developing a common assessment tool which further ensures stronger consistency across grade levels.
  - Math updates are included in monthly FES newsletters.
2. Tell Them From Me Survey Results
  - Student results available
    - Completed by all students in grades 4 and 5.
    - FES ranked higher than national average in almost all categories.
    - Questions have already been raised with district whether the wording of some questions could have been misinterpreted by some students.
    - J. Comeau raised issue that national averages seemed higher than would be expected for most categories of the survey.
  - Parent results are still being compiled by the Department of Education
3. Staffing Update
  - Presently scheduled for 27 classes, with potential that may go up to 28 for 2013/2014 year.
  - Two staff members are retiring after this school year and no more expected. Two teachers will be on maternity leave for the entire 2013/2014 school year.
4. June Meeting

- June 13, 2013 meeting will be held at Shadow Lawn. H. Tait to make the reservation. It is suggested that we request private room so that official meeting can be conducted at the dinner instead of returning to school.
5. Principal Evaluation
- Administrators are now only being formally evaluated every 5 years, and thus no formal evaluation of principal is required this year. B. Hierlihy would still like to obtain any feedback PSSC members would like to provide. H. Tait, as chair, can coordinate an email submission from each PSSC member and compile for B. Hierlihy.

**DEC Updates (C. Pierce)**

- School supplies are being reviewed across district to ensure what is being asked of families to contribute is reasonable for parents.
- Transition Day
  - Kindergarten transition day will continue to be in May (May 31<sup>st</sup>).
  - Transition days for grade 5 to 6 and grade 8 to 9 will be held in September as has been done on former districts 8 and 10. Grade 9 students will start one day before other grades, and grade 6 students will start one day before grades 7 and 8. The
  - FES will still send grade 5 students to Harry Miller Middle School for a 1.5 hour block on June 5, 2013.

**"Once Around the Table"**

- J. Comeau raised issue of the inadequacy of the Grade 3 District meeting to fully address the questions raised by parents. B. Hierlihy indicated that if as parents we wanted to prepare a letter to raise these concerns, she could forward it to the Department.
- L. Tait mentioned that the recent grade 4 field trip to Crane Mountain did not meet some students' expectations.

**Adjournment**

- Meeting was called to adjournment by L. Tait at 8:30PM.

**Next Meeting**

June 13, 2013 at Shadow Lawn Inn at 6:00PM.