

Minutes

Fairvale Elementary School, Parent School Support Committee

November 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order by E. Tait at 7:30PM in FES library.

In attendance

Bonnie Hierlihy, Robin Kirkpatrick-Evans, Tracey MacPherson, Heather Tait, Elizabeth (Liz) Tait (Chair), Peter Menchenton, Jana Comeau (note taker), Marty McCarthy, Kendra Gallant, Melissa Harris, Bridget Stack.

Regrets

Tricia Wilson, Charlotte Pierce, Judy Kilpatrick, Spring Lake, Kevin Finnigan

Approval of Minutes

Moved by T. MacPherson and seconded by H. Tait to approve October 24, 2013 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Call for a New Chairperson

- L. Tait accepted role as chair.
- H. Tait accepted role as vice chair.
- J. Comeau will remain as note taker.

Introduction of PSSC Members

- All present members introduced themselves as committee is greatly expanded and many new and welcome faces join the group.

Role of PSSC

- B. Hierlihy reviewed new PSSC Manual prepared by the province as an introduction to new members. Highlighted in the overview were the following points:
 - Membership and roles of Committee
 - Responsibilities of the PSSC
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- Provincial Assessment schedule this year:

The Gr. 2 Provincial Assessment will be a 20% sample of both reading and writing.

The Gr. 4 assessment will NOT be done in English (neither reading, nor writing), only in French Immersion.

The Gr. 5 Math will be a selected 20% sample.

There will be no Gr. 5 Intensive French assessment this year.

- As a group, we completed the 'Whose Job Is This Anyway?' exercise in manual.
- L. Tait mentioned that she feels our role is also to bring forward issues raised by parents to this committee. She asked if committee members were comfortable with having their names introduced on the next FES Newsletter. Members agreed.

Business Arising from Minutes

- Parent Wellness Night
 - Wellness Night – event being held at Hampton Middle School to address mental health issues in youth. This is in line with discussion at October 24th meeting regarding anxiety in children.

- Plan to have a wellness related evening for parents in conjunction with February meeting. Discussion was held whether this should be a single topic or a broader event that brought in 2-3 speakers. Agreement that the latter would allow for a broader range of interests and concerns of parents. Potential speakers include:
 - B. Hierlihy mentioned that one of the district psychologists, Angela Gionet, indicated she would come in and speak to parents.
 - R. Kirkpatrick mentioned that there is a school wellness consultant, Lynn-Ann Duffley, who works for the Department of Health and Inclusive Communities, who might bring some interesting thoughts and ideas to the committee/wellness night.
 - *Kids Have Stress Too* seminar put on by Canadian Mental Health might be a good option as well.
 - Ideas for other presenters included **Aisha Khedheri- Dietitian with Horizon Network**
- L. Tait and B. Hierlihy will contact individuals regarding participation in a February event for parents, and report back to wider committee.
- New School Meeting – B. Hierlihy clarified that all PSSC members will be invited to the meeting to be held by District regarding school design and boundaries for the new elementary school scheduled to open in Quispamsis in September 2015. Meeting will be held on either November 27 or December 4 and once confirmed by District; B. Hierlihy will send email out to PSSC members. A general meeting for all parents will be scheduled for the New Year.
- Tell Them From Me survey: Surveys must be completed by December 2, 2013, and school generally receives results within 6 weeks.

DEC Update

- C. Pierce unable to attend tonight's meeting so DEC update to come at next meeting.

2013/2014 PSSC Budget

- Budget of approximately \$1,500 has been allocated and must be spent by the end of February 2014.
- In previous years, monies have been spent on:
 - Cost sharing with school for Synervoice.
 - Signs for parking lot.
- Potential items for this year
 - New sign for Gondola Point Road: B. Hierlihy to contact town to find our process for being granted an easement; E. Tait to explore costs and bring back to next meeting.
 - Contribution to Synervoice.
 - Potential to purchase resources for parents in relation to the planned Wellness Night.
- L. Tait will compile quotes about above items, and final budget will be approved at January meeting.

Communications

- Names and photo of PSSC members will be published in next FES Newsletter.

New Business:

- Format of Meetings for remainder of year: Committee agreed that instead of focusing on one end policy per meeting that we would ask B. Hierlihy to report on all new activities that connect to all four ends policies. This will allow us to contribute thoughts in a more timely and relevant fashion.

"Once Around the Table"

- T. MacPherson mentioned that she did connect with her church but there are no seniors groups available to partner with FES.
- P. Menchenton mentioned that he heard there are lots on dead end by school that appear to have some activity. We should try to better understand the implications of construction in this area as it is the route for a lot of our walking students.

Adjournment

- Meeting was called to adjournment by E. Tait at 9:15PM.

Next Meeting

January 16, 2013 in FES Library.