



Forest Hill Elementary School

548 Forest Hill Road, Fredericton, NB E3B 4K6

Parent School Support Committee Minutes

22nd April 2019, 7:15pm – 8:20pm

<p>PSSC Members present: David Greenfield, Chair Janice Maher-Foster, Vice Chair Wendy Monk, Secretary</p> <p>PSSC Members regrets: Stella Park Michelle Wuest</p>	<p>School/DEC Representation present: Tracy Stewart, Principal Lori Myles-Coulombe, Teacher</p> <p>School/DEC Representation regrets: Terry Pond, DEC</p>
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1. Meeting introduction

(a) Minutes from the April PSSC meeting

The minutes were approved.

2. New Business:

(a) PSSC and HSC on social media

Support for developing social media presence with a combined Facebook page for the FHES PSSC and HSC. The page will provide another avenue for communication with current and future parents, and the wider community and will hopefully improve engagement and involvement with the school. David Greenfield developed and shared draft usage guidelines for the joint Facebook page highlighting the potential for improved communication for school information, news and events to be shared with FHES families and the wider community. Further discussion followed around the level of interaction with the page (i.e. will comments be allowed? If so, will they be vetted prior to posting by an admin?) General consensus was to be selective with allowing comments depending on the post topic with the option of closing a post to comments if the discussion is not productive. The written policy will be shared on the FB page.

Action item: David Greenfield to contact Priestman Elementary School to learn more about their social media involvement

Discussion followed around the barriers to people volunteering with the school community including the loss of connection with the school and teachers, how to make the school more welcoming to volunteers, etc. The new FB page will provide another avenue for communication and sharing events. Also suggestion that people could just sign up for one event or volunteer opportunity rather than feeling that they have to commit for the full school year. We are hoping to have some volunteer days to help with beautifying the school over the next few weeks with the first planned for Sunday 19th May.

Action item: Tracy Stewart will set up an online survey to understand people's perceptions around volunteering, share potential volunteering opportunities, and learn more about the barriers that prevent people from signing up for events.

(b) Sustainability Study update

As reported at the previous PSSC meeting, the DEC voted to support Option 3 (close both Forest Hill Elementary School and Liverpool Street Elementary School, and build a new facility, likely located on the current LSES land).

Update since meeting: The provincial Education Minister, Dominic Cardy, announced support for the DEC's decision for Option 3 (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/education-schools-dec-fredericton-1.5122512>).

(c) Childhood stress support presentation

The PSSC-sponsored presentation on ““Helping Children Cope With Stress” was given by Stacy Coy and Nathalie Ryder from the Child and Youth Team. The PSSC would like to thank them for an excellent presentation to the community of Forest Hill Elementary School and Liverpool Elementary School. Seventeen people attended the informative presentation and discussion where we learned about tools and resources to help parents support both their children and themselves.

(d) Principal's report

- (a) Maintenance of the school grounds. The maintenance crew will come to begin landscaping the front of the school with a follow up by volunteers (volunteer days will be promoted to help with the tasks). A local landscaping business (WayBren) will be donating sand to the playground and topsoil for landscaping – thank you! A new school sign will be printed for the front of the school to replace the fading sign – initial focus of landscaping will be in that area. Also a possibility for garden boxes and a sensory garden at the front of the school.
Action item: Tracy Stewart will discuss landscaping plans with staff for their input on location and types of plants
- (b) Positive Learning and Working Environment Plan and School Improvement Plan are well underway with teacher groups (All, French Immersion only, and K + Grade 1 English) working together to develop enquiry-based and play-based learning.
- (c) Strong support for the proposal to develop a natural playground for the school to promote physical development including skills for risky play, etc. Meeting will be held in early June to kickstart the project.

- (d) There will be no Spring Fling because of a lack of volunteers to help with organising and coordinating the event. However, there is a Fall Frolic planned and this will be one of the first tasks of the new HSC.
- (e) Improve family involvement with the school – discussion points above.

(e) DEC report

- (a) Terry Pond was not able to attend the PSSC meeting due to ongoing treatments but the Minutes are available via the DEC website (available via: <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/DEC/Pages/Files.aspx>).

3. Any other business:

(a) Update school website

The PSSC and HSC member lists on the website are out of date and should be updated.

Date of next meeting: 27th May 2019

PSSC Chair

14th May 2019

PSSC Secretary