



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Forest Hill Elementary School**  
548 Forest Hill Road, Fredericton, NB E3B 4K6

**Parent School Support Committee Minutes**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 6:30pm – 7:15pm

<p><b>PSSC Members present:</b> David Greenfield, Chair Janice Maher-Foster, Vice Chair Wendy Monk, Secretary and Community Member Rob Langmaid, Member</p> <p><b>PSSC Members apologies:</b> Federico Sogaro, Member</p>	<p><b>School/DEC Representation present:</b> Tracy Stewart, Principal Lori Myles-Coulombe, Teacher</p>
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**1. Meeting introduction:**

**(a) Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes from the November PSSC meeting were approved.

**(b) January meeting – Natural Playground community meeting**

Sponsored by the PSSC, a community meeting was held in late January 2020 to discuss the proposed natural playground for FHES. Thirteen community members, prospective parents, PSSC members and school staff came together to brainstorm and learn about the natural playground.

**2. New Business:**

**DEC**

There is still a vacancy for a DEC member for the sub-district 7 (Fredericton South) that covers FHES. Discussion explored whether we need a representative to come to one of the last few PSSC meetings for this academic year. General view was that we felt that we were able to access the DEC Minutes as needed.

David provided a brief summary from the latest DEC meeting including improvements to science literacy (improving critical thinking, supporting students to become assessment capable), latest sustainability studies, summary of the recent school transportation meeting (including the minimum bussing distance).

**Principal's report**

*a) School survey*

An online survey was shared with the school community to follow up on the recent District-wide discussions on school transportation. 26 responses were recorded from parents. Many parents supported a delayed school opening for storm days but there are concerns around transportation issues. For example,

concerns regarding the current distance requirements (2.5km) for bussing where many parents feel that these are not reasonable for young students, that school was cancelled too often due to weather, that there were not seat belts on the bus and that delayed openings may not work for many families.

b) *PLWEP – Natural playground update*

Public meeting held in late January 2020 that provided an opportunity for wider community input in the design and needs for a natural playground at FHES (see above). Ongoing work has included learning about the process of playground installation and design from Bienenstock. Tracy Stewart also met with a local playground designer and installer (Jeff Lenehan), who works with Jambette PlayStructures from Quebec who will create a few design mock ups based on our meeting in mid-February (e.g. learning area, garden space, loose parts, music wall, mud kitchen, etc.) Also, the need to integrate both natural (e.g. tree trunks, etc.) vs. natural-themed (e.g. equipment made from longer-lasting material but under the theme of natural equipment). Plan to bring the committee together soon to identify smaller teams to take on tasks (e.g., writing grants, securing quotes, etc.) Also need to find an engineer to complete a formal survey of the area (possible link to Faculty of Engineering at UNB).

- a) *SIP*. The second of three six-week skill intensives (oral language, fine motor and social-emotional skills) is completing this week with the focus on fine motor skills. Held across both grades, these are child-led and teacher-teacher collaborations and have been very successful. These intensive skill blocks help students develop independence and also improve collaboration among teachers with additional peer accountability and support. These will be repeated in the next academic year.
- b) *New school mascot*. Forest, the new school mascot, has been a huge success across both the school and the wider community. School swag is now available and this is leading to increased school pride!
- c) *Safety at drop-off/collection* – linked to PSSC budget (see below). Part of the PSSC budget will be spent on new signage for the school that will feature the new mascot. One of these will be a new welcome sign (encouraging parents to sign students in and then to let the students move to their own classrooms to help support development of independence). Another sign will be placed on the side entrance doors to make it clear that this is only to be used by staff and students. Both of these will ensure a safe and confidential environment for students and teachers.

Noted that cars are still entering via the bus lane in the mornings, despite signage. New approach is to place pylons once the two buses have arrived in addition to a possible change in supervision. These changes will be monitored.

- d) *SIP planning*. Plan to develop a draft SIP for the 2020-21 academic year by April/May to share with the PSSC
- e) *6<sup>th</sup> May is walk/bike for school wellness day*. Activities will be developed to promote a healthy and active lifestyle as well as promoting alternative transport to and from school.
- f) *Hallway sensory path*. A new sensory path will be placed in the school hallways (once school has finished for this academic year) to provide interest and an outlet for students moving in these spaces.

### **3. Any other business:**

- a) *PSSC budget*

The budget for the PSSC for this academic year is \$394.74, which must be spent by the end of March 2020. Part of the costs went to supporting the recent public natural playground meeting (see above) and the remainder will be spent on improving school signage and promoting the new school mascot.

**Date of next meeting:** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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**PSSC Chair**

11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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**PSSC Secretary**