



Forest Hill Elementary School

548 Forest Hill Road, Fredericton, NB E3B 4K6

Parent School Support Committee Minutes

29th March 2021, 6.30pm - 7:15pm (virtual meeting via Teams)

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| PSSC Members present: David Greenfield, Chair Wendy Monk, Secretary Rob Langmaid, Member Maiya Alismaïli, Member | School Representation present: Tracy Stewart, Principal Frances Beaudin, Teacher |
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1. Meeting introduction

(a) Minutes from the February PSSC meeting

The minutes were approved.

2. New business

(a) Supporting home learning video series

Two videos have been released as part of the supporting home learning series and have been posted to YouTube (16 people have viewed the first video and 20 have viewed the second video, so far). Videos are helping to support parents and caregivers, and offer support going forward (can also be reused). Currently focusing on the literacy video and will be developing a social-emotional video as the final part of the series. Tracy worked to balance content and be engaging while highlighting available high-quality resources for each of the videos. Videos can be used alongside other more interactive activities e.g., board games, scavenger hunts. Coordinated with numeracy coordinator to help with content (e.g., hidden numeracy skills through everyday activities in addition to learning how to play games/take turns).

(b) Air quality testing results – spot testing

District has been completing air quality testing across 24 schools focusing on ventilation. FHES testing triggered by letter submitted by PSSC but last meeting also showed that this is not a new issue (i.e. not just in response to COVID-19) and instead has been raised over several years. RPC completed spot 1 hour testing on the 24th February (as part of the initial PSSC request), and also on 26th March (as part of the provincial testing). RPC measured both CO₂ levels and mould spore levels (where the latter is potentially linked to historical water issues in the basement of the school). Readings were recorded between 819ppm

and 1619ppm, where the higher reading was recorded in the gym where students were moving around. These values can be compared with the outside ambient levels (497ppm). Windows were closed for all but one of the rooms. The results are still being interpreted but typical levels between 500-700ppm above exterior levels are generally acceptable. Health Canada guidelines are not clear so hoping that the province will be leading interpretation following the provincial testing. Requested historical air quality testing results and those did show higher readings as compared with the current readings. Note that the results showed no black mould present at the school. FHES will look to the province to provide further interpretation and this will be an important conversation for the PSSC in the Fall.

(c) Student enrollment

Information coming together for K and Grade 1 enrollment for the 2021-22 academic year. It should be noted that the numbers will change significantly before the start of the new school year. Current registrations stand at: K = 43 (still waiting for final documentation on two more); Grade 1 FI = 36; and Grade 1 English = 27. These numbers are very similar to last year ending with 120-130 children registered in a typical year. The current numbers suggest two FI classes, two K classes, one combined K-1 prime class, and one English prime class but will likely move to seven classes by September. There will likely be surplus teachers given the shift in class sizes for the 2020-21 school year but staffing levels for next year are working under the assumption that class sizes will be back to full class sizes. Teachers have noted the significant benefits of smaller class sizes for this school year but will have to be balanced for the budget.

(c) Oral language goals

Teachers are focusing on developing oral language skills (e.g. Grade 1 focusing on describing objects, K exploring the difference between a question and a comment, different question types, use more describing language, how can students ask questions that are relevant). TS has asked teachers to provide assessment results in May so the staff can focus on learning from their results. Staff will be developing a focused direction and goals for the next year. Fine motor skills program has greatly benefited the students and will become part of the general learning within the classroom rather than being an individual focused learning goal.

(d) Outdoor classroom

The outdoor classroom project is continuing and FHES will apply for funding. The Home and School Association will apply on FHES's behalf to get matched money from existing fundraising. There is a quote (~\$8000) provided for outdoor classroom space. If successful, then the building could start in late June at the earliest (as students cannot be in the space during construction). The signs supported by the PSSC budget for this fiscal year have been completed and look fantastic.

(e) Spring playground cleanup

The 2019 playground cleanup was really successful so FHES would like to hold one again this year, likely in May (assuming that provincial COVID-19 regulations allow for it). The PSSC will revisit at the end of April's meeting to set a date.

Date of next meeting: 26th April 2021

PSSC Chair

7th April 2021

PSSC Secretary