



Forest Hill Elementary School

548 Forest Hill Road, Fredericton, NB E3B 4K6

Parent School Support Committee Minutes

31st May 2021, 6.30pm – 7.15pm (virtual meeting via Teams)

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

(a) Minutes from the May PSSC meeting

The minutes were approved.

2. New business

a) Principal's report

(i) Incoming administrator

We will hear this week about new Principal. TS wanted to wait until we knew the replacement before announcing to the wider school community. TS is hoping to work with the new Principal to transition over the next month.

(ii) PSSC for the next school year

WM will be the only member transitioning and was asked to be nominated as Chair for the next academic year. WM accepted on the condition that another member will be able to take on the role of Secretary during the meetings.

(iii) Oral language and communication for skills (March – May 2021)

The final skills block has been completed with a focus on oral language and communication skills. For K classes, the focus was on the difference between a question and a comment. There was clear growth across the students when pre-assessment was compared with post-skill training (51% K students understood a question pre-test and this rose to 90% post-skill training; 81% K students understood a comment pre-test and this rose to 95% post-skill training). These skills

have also helped to develop speaking and listening skills. These results also help to identify students who made need additional support and areas for further development.

The focus was on increasing descriptive language for Grade 1 English classes using the “bird” and “banana” Expanding Expressions Toolkit (themed beads to promote oral language skills e.g. description cues). Each child was shown a picture of a bird or a banana and were then asked to talk about the picture. Assessment was made based on the number of components that the child used (e.g. material, function, etc.) out of 6. All students would describe between 1 – 4 components during their pre-test assessment, and almost all students could meet that or go beyond in the post-skills test. Teachers noted that there was an increase in the use of descriptive language across the class after the activities.

The Grade 1 French Immersion students also focus on increasing descriptive language as well as developing new vocabulary. These classes didn’t use the Expanding Expressions toolkit but students were instead taught a number of different descriptors. Classes were taught new descriptors to support their language development. There were wide improvements from pre- to post-test with post-test showing that all students responded in French while pre-test, a number of descriptors verbalised in English for the pre-test (sometimes full sentences). Teachers also noted that the transition was not only in oral but also in written skills.

iv. PSSC provided input for District for new administrator

The PSSC was asked by the District to provide input for the new FHES administrator and this will be included in their assessment.

v. Transition set up between FHS and LSES

Grade 1 students will not be going on a tour of Liverpool Street Elementary school because of COVID restrictions. However, information will be shared with families, and a transition meeting between administrators to share student information will also occur. LSES is hoping to have an in-person visit in August for new students.

(b) Forms for registration at start of school year –dietary restrictions

The forms that are provided to parents and caregivers at the start of the school year provide required information e.g., emergency contacts, allergies, etc. However, there is no space to provide information about dietary requirements, e.g., for religious reasons. MA also noted that there is nothing in the school handbook about this too. Agreement that the school-produced forms (not the general Powerschool forms) could be updated to capture that information from parents as well as providing additional support in the FHES handbook.

(c) Bikes for kids – the All Bikes Program

TS followed up with the All Bikes Program. There are two New Brunswick schools involved in the program so far (both in Miramichi). TS reached out to one of them and they provided a lot of information. TS then contacted Ross Campbell (District lead – subject coordinator) and pitched the idea for ASDW schools. They have also connected with All Bikes Canada and connected with the District. The program would benefit both K and Grade 1 students with the purchase of 24 bikes that

could be shared via the District. Costs ~\$7000 for the program but this could be supported through fundraising – and would need to raise funds for helmets. There is also potential to set up a bike donation program through the school each Spring (e.g., similar to the Winter gear swap)

(d) List of potential agenda items to carry over to the next school year

- a. Ventilation – ongoing follow-up
- b. Keeping up to date on potential new combined K-5 school build
- c. Format for future meetings – virtual vs. in-person vs. hybrid of both. Suggest to have a minimum of 2 in-person meetings, one at the start, but keep those winter ones as virtual meetings
- d. Outdoor classroom project
- e. Promoting PSSC to parents and caregivers

Date of next meeting: September 2021

PSSC Chair

7th June 2021

PSSC Secretary