

Minutes for the Forest Hill Elementary School Parent School Support Committee meeting

Monday 25th September 2017, 6.30pm

In attendance: David Greenfield, Janice Maher-Foster, Wendy Monk, Paul Saad, Ronnie Stewart, Tara Swift, Colleen Toner-Miernicki, Karina Wong-Chong, Michelle Wuest

Sent regrets: Mahmoud Alhallak, Erin Bray, Bronwyn Mulherin-Murphy, Terry Pond, Allysa Rostin, Wendy Yano

Introductions and PSSC role

The role of the PSSC and a summary of its work during the previous school year was provided to the new members including an update on the gender-neutral bathrooms and the school's approach to promote an understanding of diversity in our community.

On behalf of the current PSSC, Paul Saad thanked the previous and returning members of the committee for their help and support throughout the 2016-2017 school year, particularly Bronwyn Mulherin-Murphy for stepping into the Chair position.

PSSC positions

Volunteers were identified for positions within the PSSC for the 2017-2018 school year:

- Ronnie Stewart: Chair
- Janice Maher-Foster: Vice-Chair
- David Greenfield: Treasurer
- Wendy Monk: Admin secretary
- Terry Pond: DEC representative

Safety during afternoon pick-up

Concern was raised about safety and congestion associated with afternoon dismissal. Discussion focused on ensuring a safe dismissal period, including within-school movement of children (e.g. maintaining current set up where children move to gym for after-school program pick-up) and developing a new efficient pick-up for families and caregivers. The PSSC recommended adjusting the dismissal procedure. From Monday 2nd October, Kindergarten students will be dismissed from the Kindergarten door and Grade 1 students will continue to be dismissed from the main door. Where parents have children in both years, both children will be dismissed from the Kindergarten door. Parents and caregivers must continue to park in the drop-off area to keep the bus lane area free and should continue to be vigilant as they leave following dismissal to maintain safety.

Safety vests

Parents would like to easily identify teachers and support staff at morning drop-off. Following discussion, it was suggested that teachers and support staff will be provided with high visibility vests to be worn during morning drop-off.

Promoting recycling and composting

Concern has been raised about the size of the environmental footprint of the school (e.g. daily waste associated with the large number of plastic spoons). Discussion covered ideas for reducing waste and improving recycling in our community, concern about potential food leakage in lunch bags (e.g. from yoghurt containers), and allowing families to assess their child's eating habits. It was proposed that all waste (e.g. wrappers, plastic spoons, peelings, etc.) will be returned home in each child's lunch container. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher if they have concerns and alternative arrangements can be made.

Next meeting: Monday 23rd October 2017, 6.30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7.40pm.