

# Fredericton High School Parent School Support Committee

## MINUTES

Monday, April 24, 2017 – 5:30 p.m., Room C22

### **Present:**

Shane Thomas - Principal  
Jeannine St. Amand - Chair  
Rhonda Baker Gordon -Vice Chair  
Karen Flinn  
Mark Taylor  
Priscilla Geisterfer

Coleen Gorman  
Neville Peasley  
Stephanie Haslam - DEC Representative  
Sean Lalla and Patricia Kennedy, Student Reps

### **Regrets:**

Peter Batt - Teacher Representative

- **Welcome and Call to Order** (J. St. Amand)

- **Presentation** (Students)

#### **ES Drone 2K16**

A group of environmental students gave a presentation to PSSC about a project they did on an ecological way of collecting water samples, using drones to get into waterways without having an environmental impact. The students did the whole project on their own, including learning how to use the drones. They have won awards such as 1<sup>st</sup> place at the STEAM Expo, and the Brilliant Labs award. They have also received interest from a university, and are currently looking at getting a patent for their design. The students' teacher, Mrs. Barnhart expressed pride in their work and achievement. The students thanked Ducks Unlimited, Brilliant Labs, Service NB, and the Environmental Trust Fund for their support. Ducks Unlimited has published an article about the project that Jeannine will share with the PSSC.

**ACTION:** Jeannine to forward Duck's Unlimited article to PSSC.

**Kats' Kitchen** – Mrs. Barnhart reminded PSSC about the May 5 Kats' Kitchen breakfast fundraiser for their food program, and asked the committee for support by spreading the word and putting up posters.

- **Approval of Agenda & Minutes**

Motion to approve the agenda was by Coleen, seconded Neville. Approved.

Motion to approve the minutes was by Priscilla, seconded by Karen. Approved.

- **Reports**

#### **Student Report** (S. Lalla and P. Kennedy)

Sean and Patricia gave an update on this month's student activities; including preparations for Mr. Mardi Gras taking place in May, a clothing drive that collected 100 bags of clothes and the money raised was shared between Black Kat Ambassadors and SRC, and an Easter themed day with an Easter egg hunt around the school which had high student participation. Also, a Pitch Competition is being organized by Dominyka Taylor and Mrs. Hiltz in which students can pitch ideas for a business to a panel of judges (similar to Dragon's Den), and the winners will receive \$500 towards starting their business.

#### **District Education Council Report** (S. Haslam)

At the last DEC meeting, the Kingsclear School sustainability study was discussed and it was decided to delay any closure of the school for two years.

The spring DEC Symposium is coming up and Mark will be the representative from our sub district.

- **New Business** (S. Thomas and J. St. Amand)

### **NB Student Wellness Survey**

Jeannine shared a summary of FHS results from the provincial 2015-16 Student Wellness Survey. Highlights included:

- The make-up of our student population is very different from the rest of the province with respect to students who self-identify as immigrant: FHS 18 % at vs. NB 6%
- Students at FHS spend a lot more time doing homework and reading.
- Learning about cultural heritage is more important to FHS students.
- If you took FHS students out of the sample of how many hours per day on average students spend reading, it would make the other numbers go way down. FHS is pulling up the District numbers in the indicators.
- FHS has a much lower incidence of bullying, but 42% of our students indicated they have been bullied. Most observed is verbal attacks followed by exclusion.
- Resilience for FHS students is weakened by two elements; only 24% said they know where to go for help in their community. And only 19% said they were aware of the LINK program.
- FHS students are more likely to participate in activities and groups inside and outside school, and they have a higher participation with helping in the community.
- A lower percentage of FHS students (29%) said they have a part time job, probably because they are participating in after school activities and volunteering. They also said they value their school work and grades.
- In the health indicators, more students at FHS said they are getting healthy meals, drinking less sweetened beverages, and eating breakfast every day. They however are not getting enough sleep; only 21% are getting 8 or more hours a night. With respect to smoking, only 22% said they tried smoking, and only 18% said they tried alternative smoking products, such as e-cigarettes vs. 31% in the province.

Shane thanked Jeannine for the summary and putting the survey results in a spreadsheet graph.

**ACTION:** Jeannine will send a copy of the summary to PSSC.

- **Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **Policy 711, Health Promoting Schools**

Jeannine and Shane have been invited to a discussion meeting about Policy 711 on Friday May 12 with the Superintendent, DEC Chairs, etc. Jeannine will share the concerns we've had for several years and will bring with her the information that we have collected. She will let us know how it goes.

### **Welcome to FHS Document**

Jeannine has updated the document based on feedback she received from the committee and will consider it complete. Shane will send it electronically to feeder schools and have copies at the orientation session for Grade 9 parents.

### **Mental Health Video**

Jeannine sent a draft video she created to the committee for feedback. There is a document that goes with it to give to parents electronically. Shane will post the video and materials on the school website for Mental Health week in May.

- **Principal's Report** (S. Thomas)

- Shane is taking a group of teachers to the United Technologies Center (UTC) in Bangor to see what the UTC is about. His vision is to transform our school's innovation lab to create a series of modules so that FHS has the most successful and used innovation lab in Atlantic Canada.
- FHS will be receiving solar panels as part of an energy project.
- FHS has received the final budget envelope for the school upgrades; Shane is waiting to see what

will be accomplished this summer. Next year's PSSC will need to ensure the funding envelope takes care of what is remaining so that the upgrades do not remain unfinished. The key areas for completion will be up-to-date electrical, plumbing, and ventilation to bring them up to current building codes. Everything health wise and safety wise will be addressed.

- The Canada Skills Competition was held at FHS on the weekend. It included 11 events with 17 students from our school competing, the most ever from FHS. They earned 11 medals (4 Gold), and 5 of the students will be going to Nationals in Winnipeg.
- FHS sent 3 Grade 11 students to the Cyber 2K17 competition last Friday. They placed first in the programming competition and won the grand prize of a flat screen TV for their classroom, which they will be using as a monitor. The students plan to put in a team for the national competition next year.
- This year's graduation will be June 22.
- The Black Kat Scholars will be announced May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the NBTA building (there are 34 students).
- This year's Turnaround Achievement Award winners are Chelsea Neumann and Roan Amos. They made significant changes in their lives and will be moving on to post-secondary education.
- Patricia Kennedy placed first in the French oratorical competition.
- The PSSC Membership current status and intention for next year:
  - Rhonda 5<sup>th</sup> year (returning), Karen 2<sup>nd</sup> year (returning), Pricilla 3<sup>rd</sup> year (needs to be elected), Coleen 2<sup>nd</sup> year (returning), Neville 2<sup>nd</sup> year (returning), Mark 3<sup>rd</sup> year (needs to be elected)
  - Will need 3 members (3 year terms) + a community rep would be available.
  - The committee will need to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair and will require a new minute-taker.

- **Teacher Comments (P. Batt through email)**

- Some students are once again missing large amounts of time due to extended family vacations/grad trips that are occurring during hours when school is in session. Teachers would respectfully ask parents to be mindful of the school calendar when planning family holidays/grad trips, so as to minimize the time that students are away from classes, thereby maximizing the likelihood of student success in a course.
- There has been a request for the cafeteria to send out a regular memo/post online their planned lunches a week or two ahead of the date on which they will be served. Knowing what will be served ahead of time will allow staff/students to better plan out their lunches.
- The "Brain Bike" donated by the Thomas Keats Organization has arrived. A picture will be taken with TKO members and HPS members and shared with the school community.
- The first Diversity Celebration, held on April 6th, was a great success.

- **Closing Comments and Adjournment**

Jeannine gave closing comments. The next meeting will combine May and June, **Monday, May 29 at 5:30 pm**. Motion to adjourn Mark, seconded by Coleen. Adjourned at 7:10 pm.

*Minutes prepared by: R Baker Gordon*