

Fredericton High School Parent School Support Committee

MINUTES

Monday, February 27, 2017 – 5:30 p.m., Room C22

Present:

Nathan Langille - Vice Principal

Jeannine St. Amand - Chair

Rhonda Baker Gordon -Vice Chair

Peter Batt - Teacher Representative

Stephanie Haslam - DEC Representative

Sean Lalla, Student Representative

Neville Peasley

Karen Flinn

Mark Taylor

Gary McDonald, Teacher

Regrets:

Shane Thomas - Principal

Priscilla Geisterfer

Coleen Gorman

1. Welcome and Call to Order (J. St. Amand)

Jeannine introduced Nathan Langille who represented Mr. Thomas as he was not able to attend.

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

The agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve by Neville, seconded by Karen. Approved.

The Minutes from last meeting were approved by email.

3. Reports

• Local Course Option - Introduction to Kinesiology (G. McDonald)

Mr. McDonald has developed and piloted an Introduction to Kinesiology course for FHS students in partnership with University of New Brunswick (UNB). The university has been finding that approximately 20% of students drop out of Kinesiology for another program or another university. When they looked into why, students said they don't know a lot about the program before they get into it and then find out it's not what they anticipated or expected. Mr. McDonald designed the FHS course to better prepare students for what Kinesiology is about. Some of the topics include: the history of physical activity, physical literacy, sport ethics, bio-mechanics, human growth & development, etc. It also includes guest speakers, such as a nurse, sports psychologist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, nutritionist, etc., and field trips at UNB's bio-mechanics lab (one of 4 in North America) and Lady Beaverbrook gym lab. The students are also required to do 5 hours of volunteer work in a field of Kinesiology that interests them, e.g. physiotherapy clinic. Students said they got a lot out of the course and hope it will be offered again. The plan for next year is to partner with UNB's faculty of nursing and the students would potentially get credit if they go into that program. This is a Gr12 (open to Gr 11) local course option for now. If it becomes a regular course option, it could fall under the sciences or physical education. FHS is the only high school in Atlantic Canada with this course, and the only other school in Canada is in Ontario.

• Student Report (S. Lalla)

Sean reviewed the SRC bulletin of events. Highlights included last week's winter carnival and semi-formal dance, and the upcoming practices for Mr. Mardi Gras dance, tryouts in March for the Yellow and Black showcase, and a movie night in May. More fun Fridays are planned for alternate weeks. Sean also mentioned he has received a lot of complaints from students about not having any place to sit in the pit area.

• District Education Council Report (S. Haslam)

As a follow-up to the previous Nutrition policy discussion, Stephanie told the committee that at

nutrition. He said there was an audit conducted in Anglophone South District West in the Fall by Horizon Health, and they found 12 schools were in compliance with Policy 711. The District had rating of 69 compared to 73 for the province. Areas for improvement were provided. The area of most attention needed was under 'other' foods, with a score of 40. He was asked what input was normally provided by schools & parents in a policy review, and he said they are usually asked for input. Stephanie said she will continue to ask for a review of the policy. Jeannine offered to contact the Assistant Deputy Minister requesting the PSSC have input to the policy review.

ACTION: Jeannine will email the Assistant Deputy Minister on behalf of PSSC. Stephanie will talk to Kim about finding out the process going forward.

4. New Business

- **Policy ASD-W 703-14 Sexual Violence (J. St. Amand)**

Jeannine provided background: When FHS was looking at the school dress code issue a few years ago, many discussions were held and a working group established. Mr. Thomas had a lot of discussions with students and it became apparent that existing policies were not strong enough to protect students regarding sexual assault. He made a commitment to advocate for the students and the District agreed to make a policy. The new policy has been developed with appendices outlining recourses to help staff and administrators understand what sexual assault is and how to respond to it. Jeannine wanted to bring it to PSSC because the discussion started at FHS. The school still has a SART (now referred to as SAS) team, which is a support network in the school with teachers who have been trained to help students. Jeannine invited PSSC members to let her know if they have any questions.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meeting (J. St. Amand)

- **PSSC Mental Health Event - Plan B**

Jeannine proposed the idea of sending a newsletter home to parents explaining some of the mental health issues affecting students and outlining resources available within the school and community to support them. The option of a digital newsletter was discussed that could be attached to a talk mail. Jeannine also proposed the idea of providing access to resources at the Guidance Centre. There is approximately \$300 from the PSSC budget that could be used. She will discuss further with Mr. Thomas. We would want to send something out to parents during Mental Health Week, which is the first week of May.

ACTION: PSSC to review Jeannine's ideas and send her some feedback.

- **PSSC Budget**

The Synrevoice invoice is significantly higher than last year - \$3,856 compared to \$1,684. There was discussion about the significant cost and exploring how it could be used more. PSSC will discuss again in June to see if Synrevoice is mandatory to get again in September. Nathan said PowerSchool does not have a communication tool, so they have been using Synrevoice with it.

Motion: The remainder of the PSSC budget will be spent on Synrevoice. Motion by Mark, seconded by Neville. Motion carried.

6. Comments

- **Teacher Comments**

Peter shared thanks to PSSC on behalf of staff for the treats for Teacher Appreciation Week. He said they were enjoyed and appreciated.

7. Principal's Report (N. Langille)

- Due to the number of snow days this winter, FHS is currently focusing on curricular-only events and field trips that have already been planned.
- Phase I of the school construction upgrades are currently being completed and Phase II discussion meetings are being held. They are running into issues with trying to get the construction done block by block while trying to keep the school running. Efforts will be made to work around instructional time and do the rest of the work before and after school hours. A lot of work will be done during March Break and over the summer. Meetings will continue every two weeks to discuss progress.
- Nathan has been having discussions with staff to encourage them to communicate more with home.
- The Skills NB competition is being held April 22nd. Ten different skills will be represented, including carpentry and automotive. If FHS wins, they will go to the nationals.
- Parent teacher interviews will be held April 6 (evening) and April 10 (morning).
- Kats Kitchen is having their 1 year anniversary. The students recently made a presentation to Exit Realty; they are hoping to make a connection with them for funding support to assist with sustaining the program.

8. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Jeannine gave closing comments. Next meeting is **Monday, March 27 at 5:30 pm**.
Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.