

Fredericton High School Parent School Support Committee

MINUTES

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

Present:

Shane Thomas - Principal
Jeannine St. Amand - Chair
Rhonda Baker Gordon - Vice Chair
Peter Batt - Teacher Representative
Stephanie Haslam - DEC Representative
Priscilla Geisterfer

Karen Flinn
Mark Taylor
Adam Dionne, Guidance Counsellor
Kim LeBlanc, Leo Hayes High School PSSC Co-chair

Regrets:

Sean Lalla, Patricia Kennedy - Student Representatives

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

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

The agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve by Priscilla, seconded by Peter. Approved.
The Minutes from last meeting were approved by email.

3. Reports

- **Study Skills & Exam Stress Session** (A. Dionne)

Mr. Dionne provided an update about the exam preparation session he held for students in December. He has created an academic survival guide that includes advice on how to study and setting expectations for themselves, positive self-talk, realistic goals, and building positive relationships with teachers. The goal is to help students before they get in a crisis just before exam time. The guide will be made available to students in the Personal Development and Career Planning course as part of the curriculum, and Mr. Dionne will follow up with Ms. LaBerge to get feedback from teachers.

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

Leo Hayes High School catchment recommendations were presented to Council and approved. Council has voted in favour of undertaking a sustainability study of Kingsclear Consolidated School; public meetings will be held as part of the study.

4. New Business (S. Thomas)

- **Nutrition Policy 711**

As a follow-up to PSSC's invitation for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to visit FHS, the Acting Deputy Minister's administrative assistant contacted Shane and asked if there would be discussion about tea and coffee. Shane said it was on the agenda, and the response was that the Minister will not talk about tea or coffee; however they would accept the invitation to address specifically identified questions. As a result Shane declined the invitation. Jeannine asked Stephanie if she would find out from DEC what the review process will be and how schools, including students and parents will be able to provide input.

- **School Catchment Changes – Leo Hayes High School Report**

Shane provided an update on the LHHS catchment changes. He mentioned the FHS capacity of 67% given in the report is misleading as the number is based on square footage of the school, not actual teaching space. The report noted that if FHS exceeds capacity, the Education Centre will be moved from the school to provide space. For now 70-100 students will be sent to FHS. Shane will

look at the enrollment numbers in the fall.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meeting (S. Thomas)

• **School Improvement Plan Updates (cont.) – Priority 1: Instructional Practices**

Shane provided the remaining SIP updates from last meeting:

- The Health & Physical Education Department has collected baseline data for their goal of increasing student success by 4% from last year. They will calculate the data at the end of first semester to determine progress. At the end of the school year, they will decide if the percentage will be kept as a bench mark for the grade 9 term test. A new goal will be determined for the 2017-18 school year for other classes in the Department.
- The Social Studies Department almost met their goal last June of having all teachers in the Department providing an active on-line site for students for at least one subject. This will be a continuing goal, with a survey to see how beneficial the on-line sites are to students' learning.
- The Methods & Resource Department is aiming to increase collaboration between teachers and Educational Assistants. They have created a survey to collect information about collaboration, and teachers who have EAs are being provided with professional development, teacher collaboration brochures, and a methods & resource teacher to work with.
- The Science Department is looking at the use of multiple choice questions on grade 9 exams. Some changes have been made to assessment and multiple choice based on preliminary analysis. Teachers will review results of the January exams. Other goals for the Department include having all science teachers using Power School and Power Pro, and having grade 10 students visit Corbett Brook as part of their participation in the Wetland Centre of Excellence Project.
- The International Students Department has pathways for students depending on their abilities. Level 1 students focus on reading and writing in the English Language, and Level 2+ students spend more time in the classroom. Currently there are a lot of students in Level 1 so the Department has created a temporary Level 1+ stream. The Department's SIP goals are on hold for now so they can focus on these Levels.

Shane believes the new School Improvement Plan approach is working well. He will provide another update towards the end of the school year. The next PSSC might want SPRs to present to the committee next year.

• **PSSC Mental Health Event**

The committee continued discussions from last meeting regarding a mental health event for parents. Jeannine asked for committee members to sit on a sub-committee to plan the event and work with the Leo Hayes High School PSSC. Some said they could help if discussions could be done through email and meetings held during noon hours. The PSSC Co-chair from LHHS will discuss with her committee and follow up with Jeannine.

• **PSSC Budget**

The PSSC budget was discussed as a follow-up from last meeting:

There is approximately \$2,000-\$2,500 available to support the mental health event.

One television monitor is up and running; and it will cost \$1,500 to get the other two set up. A motion was made by Mark to spend \$1,500 of the PSSC budget for the monitors and communication hub equipment, seconded by Priscilla. Motion carried.

It was decided to wait until February to determine if funding is required for Synervoice.

Jeannine will work with Shane to manage the spending within budget deadlines. March 23rd is the deadline for District office.

6. Comments

- **Parent Comments:** Karen mentioned she heard some comments about the exam reorganization and why they were not spread out to Tuesday. Shane said it is not a school decision. The marks are compiled by the Department instead of the school, and their deadline is Tuesday morning. Reports cards are distributed on Wednesday morning. The District said moving everything by a day is not an option.

7. Reports (cont.)

- **Chair's Report** (J. St. Amand)
 - The Education Plan survey ends tomorrow. Jeannine encouraged everyone to participate.
 - The District Superintendent's assistant sent information to PSSC Chairs regarding the standardization of PSSC minutes across all 67 schools in the District. Discussion was held and it was decided our committee will continue providing our minutes in the format we are currently using, which is similar to the suggested format, and continue approving by email.
 - The Health Promoting Schools (HPS) committee has solicited ideas from FHS staff on how parents can be involved at school and has created a parent volunteer list. They plan to design a short survey to use with staff and send a letter to all parents at the beginning of the school year inviting them to be involved and examples for how they can help.
The committee has discussed the spin bikes in schools movement, and there is an effort underway to get a bike for FHS.
On April 6 there is a diversity celebration for the school community, which includes an activity during parent teacher interviews.
The committee would like to have a PSSC member again next year. They have 6-8 meetings held on PD days or afterschool (45 minutes).
- **Principal's Report** (S. Thomas)
 - Classroom renovations will begin January 30, starting with the washrooms and classrooms in the pit area. Everyone will need to be moved to another area. The main gym will be completed this summer. It will take 1.5 years to finish the school.
 - A maker space area upstairs is finished with 4 sections available: electronics, 3D-design, coding and videography.
 - A population profile and Syrian refugees & FHS report has been completed. Shane is looking at a summative report case study with Dr. Lyle Hamm from UNB. Shane wants to have the student perspective added. When it's finished, Shane will share with PSSC. UNB is conducting a full study about newcomers in New Brunswick, and FHS is the first school.

8. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Jeannine gave closing comments. Next meeting is **Monday, February 27 at 5:30 pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.