

Fredericton High School Parent School Support Committee

MINUTES

Monday, May 29, 2017 – 5:30 p.m., Teachers' Lounge

Present:

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

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

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

Jeannine welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the school year.

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Neville and seconded Coleen. Approved.
The minutes were distributed by email and approved.

3. Reports

Student Report (P. Kennedy and S. Lalla)

Patricia and Sean gave an update on this month's student activities. Interviews have been held for next year's student council. The Mr. Mardi Gras event was in May and went very well, with a great turnout. The final dance of the school year was last week; there were various activities, including laser tag, in keeping with the theme of having different activities, not just dancing. It has been a successful year with a lot of new activities.

District Education Council Report (S. Haslam)

The annual DEC spring symposium was held in Saint John. Stephanie and Mark provided an update on the sessions they attended. Jeannine thanked Stephanie for attending our PSSC meetings.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes (J. St. Amand & S. Thomas)

Dialogue Day on Policy 711

Jeannine, Shane and two FHS students attended a Policy 711 Dialogue day on May 12. There were several health oriented presentations. Jeannine said there were interesting discussions and a lot of student voice. However, the day was more about blue-sky discussion than providing feedback about the current policy and specific input for improvements. The policy has been in place for 10 years; we need to be able to talk about how to fix it. Shane mentioned there is a new policy being worked on by the Department over the summer with a draft available in the Fall. PSSC discussed the idea of sending another letter, this time to the policy contact person, and provide the points we brought up before.

ACTION: Jeannine will draft an email and send around to for people to add to.

5. New Business

2016-2017 Year in Review (S. Thomas)

Shane said it has been a really good year.

- PLWEP and Comprehensive School Health model: The new PLWEP developed last year was put into action this year. A calendar was used in the first half of the year to collect the various

initiatives that address the PLWEP goals and this was supplemented by Department Head reports later in the year. The PLWEP addresses various elements of the Comprehensive School Health model and the Health Promoting Schools Committee will soon look at data to see what improvements were noted and where work should continue.

- SIP: Progress has been made on the priorities identified within the school improvement plan. Teachers and departments are not limited to what they can do; they are given the freedom to find something that will help their area grow. They aren't required to have action on all SIP priorities, but must address at least one. Shane will look at the growth goals, year-end reports, and SPR reports to determine what they have done over the context of this school year. He said he likes the new process and they have made a lot of progress; a great opportunity to involve staff, and better for us as a large school.
- The school is moving to integrate technology as much as they can, including the expansion of the Innovation Centre and the Future Chefs Café.
- FHS is working with the Multicultural Association and trying to get more Atlantic Education International (AEI) students. They are looking at eventually bringing 30 new students per grade level (120 international students); most will speak English and be part of the regular classroom.
- The school mid-life upgrade construction work continues. There has been a delay in FHS receiving the allocated financial percentage for completed phase work – this is money FHS can decide internally how to spend. Shane has talked to the Superintendent, the Finance Director, and the people responsible for contract and hopes for a resolution soon. (Update: since the PSSC meeting the funding has been appropriately allocated to FHS.)
- FHS is not going live with the full Powerschool next year as it is not ready. It will be status quo for now.

PSSC Budget

PSSC has been paying for School Connects; the cost this year was very high - \$3856.08. We have argued that District should pay because it's used as an emergency response system as well. So why are we paying for it? There was discussion as to whether we should consider opting out if it's optional, and how we would communicate with parents as an alternative. PSSC decided to pay for School Connects again next year.

PSSC Housekeeping items

There was discussion about meeting nights for next year. The committee decided to continue with Monday nights as it seems to work well for everyone. At the school Open House in September there will be discussion on whether to keep the start time at 5:30 pm.

Looking ahead to 2017-2018 (PSSC)

The PSSC did a short brainstorming session on where future improvement to the FHS learning environment could be looked at. The following ideas were generated:

- Work on the personal technology piece as students need access to working devices, bring your own technology and school-wide wifi. Need more computer carts. Better integration of technology throughout the high school curriculum.
- Better Aboriginal art program (Shane noted student voice brought this to his attention and solutions are already being worked on).
- Change the grade 9 BBT program. The curriculum needs to be drastically updated, go through the EECD level.
- Expanded innovation lab so that staff and students utilize it on a regular basis
- Digital electronic school community sign
- Changes in parking for students – lack of parking spots and state of the parking area. (Shane indicated that if enough student parking passes were sold to legitimize the need for more space the school would consider changing the designation of lots).

- Consider ways to improve the school for the students who might be more introverted, prefer quiet spaces, are sensitive, etc.
- Updating parents and community on what has the PSSC accomplished over the year - maybe create a PSSC report, allows to articulate what we did over the school year (signage, advocacy for infrastructure and policy 711).

6. Reports continued

Chairs Report (J. St. Amand)

- Jeannine received a thank you email from Louise LaBerge thanking PSSC for the materials it produced for parents on positive mental health.
- The Health Promoting Schools Committee completed the volunteer opportunities survey with school staff. Fifty-six staff members contributed ideas. Jeannine prepared a report for the committee. Examples of ideas included having more parent guest speakers to talk to students across various subject areas as well as the importance of literacy and numeracy overall. There was also a suggestion for helping the school in general, Kats Kitchen was biggest mention to help fundraise and make meals. Next year they will look at how to roll out the parent survey to collect information. Jeannine will follow up with Shane on how he sees this moving forward.

Principal's Report (S. Thomas)

- Mostly covered under year in review. Shane is trying to get a project manager for the school construction next year. He is waiting for an answer from District Office. The PSSC strongly supported the need for this position.

7. Teacher Comments (P. Batt)

- The Glee Choir had a very successful and educational trip to Ottawa this past month.
- School staff is working hard to manage with the construction; however, concerns related to the school renovations persist, including:
 - Removal of key teaching aids (such as chalk boards) with no indication that they will be reinstalled
 - Teachers given little to no time to pack and move their belongings
 - Delays in moving materials from one room to another making start up in temporary location difficult
 - Teachers moving back into renovated rooms with work still not completed (uninstalled light fixtures, missing floor tiles, cupboards not installed, etc.), which will result in further disruptions down the road
 - Lack of consultation as to how to best utilize space in the room, prior to the reinstallation of SMART boards, cupboards, etc.

Support from the PSSC on these issues and others related to the construction that were discussed tonight will be important moving forward with the project in the fall of 2017.

8. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Jeannine gave closing comments. PSSC will regroup next September at the Open House, whoever can go will attend. Shane will send a communiqué regarding the first PSSC meeting. The PSSC thanked Jeannine for her work as Chair with cake and flowers as she will be graduating out of the position.

Meeting Adjourned 7:45 pm.