

Fredericton High School Parent School Support Committee

MINUTES

Monday, November 27, 2017 – 5:30 p.m., C-22

Present:

Nathan Langille - Acting Principal

Rhonda Baker Gordon - Chair

Coleen Gorman-Asal - Vice Chair

Andrew Rutledge - Teacher Representative

Stephanie Haslam - DEC Representative

Joey Bernard

Karen Flinn

Pam Kitchen

Mark Taylor

Patricia Kennedy, Student Rep

Vanshika Kaitan, Student Rep

SPRs: D. Bosse, M-J Paulin, J. Gange

Regrets: Neville Peasley, Wendy Wright-Gardner

Kim Kelly

1. Welcome and Call to Order (R. Baker Gordon)

Rhonda welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the school year.

2. Agenda & Minutes

Agenda was approved.

3. SPR Reports

Janice Gange, Methods and Resource Department

Goals:

PLPs at FHS will be shown as valid indicating completion with 90% accuracy by November 1, 2017 and again on March 20, 2018.

This will improve student learning by focusing on instructional practices that challenge and support all students.

There are 171 students with PLPs at FHS. There are 8 resource teachers.

Marie-Josée Paulin, Language Department

Goals:

By January 2017 and June 2018, 90% of students will have progressed one level in the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) or will have successfully completed 89% of provincial outcomes (Students usually achieve ~95% at FHS).

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is an international standard for describing language ability. It describes language ability on a six-point scale, from A1 for beginners, up to C2 for those who have mastered a language. The CEFR is widely-accepted across Europe, and increasingly common around the world.

This will improve student learning by focusing on instructional practices that challenge and support all students.

Don Bossé, Fine Arts Department

Goals:

To incorporate formative assessment practices into our daily teaching and student learning. Teachers will be able to use formative assessment systems as a powerful way to improve student achievement.

To incorporate Growth Mindset practices in the classroom. Using “Mindset the new Psychology of Success” by Carol S. Dweck and “Mindset in the Classroom, Building a Growth Mindset Learning Community” by Mary Cay Ricci.

Mr. Bossé provided examples of student learning with marks from test and re-test. It’s okay to start with a low grade but learn and improve. Students showing amazing growth under the new “growth mindset” philosophy.

This will improve student learning by focusing on instructional practices that challenge and support all students.

4. Reports

Student Report (P. Kennedy and V. Kaitan)

Remembrance Day ceremony was postponed due to power failure in the gym. It was rescheduled to November 14. All speakers and guests were still able to attend. Well received by all.

Spirit Week occurred last week. Every day was a different dress up theme (twin day, school colours, etc.) Participation throughout the week was great, better than last year!

Senior's dinner was postponed to December 13 due to issues with the senior's home. Members of Legion Branch 4 have been invited this year.

Holiday Hangout will take place on December 19. This is an event that combines a coffeehouse and holiday-themed games. Auditions will take place November 28.

Leading up to Christmas vacation SRC will host 12 days of Christmas. Similar to spirit week but holiday-oriented.

District Education Council Report (S. Haslem)

DEC meeting held in Woodstock. Terry Pond would like to see more student voice included at the DEC meetings. DEC will work to make this happen.

Some boards have a separate LBGTQ2S policy. The DEC is thinking about developing their own policy.

Spring Symposium for PSSC members scheduled for May 4-6, 2018 in Fredericton. PSSC member names must be submitted to Stacey Brown by February. There will be more information provided to the PSSC in the future.

There will be a committee of PSSC chairs from South West sub-district who will meet with DEC Chair. More information forthcoming.

Teacher's Report (A. Rutledge)

Will discuss library issue in Business Carried Forward.

Principal's Report (N. Langille)

Good news!:

Valerie Marshall, English Department, received a Minister's Excellence in Education Award!

Mark Garnett received an Arts Smart Grant for \$1500 with which a DNA art installation will be created in the science area.

Once again Dwight Dunfield continues to be a model for Inclusionary Education with the FHS Production. This year four resource students participated in Grease. One participant is a four year veteran.

Daneen Dymond worked on a Physical Literacy Partnership with Montgomery Street School. This event was celebrated with Mayor Mike O'Brien and was featured in the Daily Gleaner.

Construction update:

F wing will have a delayed completion, (Christmas) which will lead to change in completion schedule on top floor.

Heating continues to be an issue in some areas during construction.

Two newly renovated student washrooms have been completed.

Solar Panels will be installed by NB Power on the FHS roof at their cost. NB Power will be testing a new type of panel. This is a project that NB power is working on through Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI).

Vaping:

Nathan is asking for our support regarding the cessation of vaping in school washrooms.

Students are vaping in the washrooms violating the Anti-Nicotine Policy of the school and the Scent Free Policy. It is a health issue both for the vaping students and the staff and students exposed to the vaping fumes.

Students may be given a suspension (in school or out of school) for vaping offences if they continue to vape in the school.
The PSSC agreed to support the initiative of the administration to stop vaping within school property. A message will go out to parents.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Healthy Schools Communities Committee:

Wendy has agreed to join the committee.

The Parental involvement inventory will be updated.

School Traffic:

Voicemail sent to Parents last week concerning parking in the drop off area. Nathan has received positive feedback on this initiative.

Budget:

The committee reviewed last year's budget and discussed where our funds could/should go this year. We are restricted to fund for communications and expenses for the committee solely. We will review the budget again when Shane returns.

A suggestion was made by Pam to circulate a brochure which would showcase school / teacher / student achievement.

Link to the Article Are Cellphones Destroying a Generation:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/09/has-the-smartphone-destroyed-a-generation/534198/>

Library:

An ad-hoc library committee has been struck to address the concerns of staff with respect to changes to the library. Several committee members went to visit the new Moncton High School library on the PD day last week.

Concerned staff met and created a 10 question survey on library use by FHS Students. The survey results were collected from November 6-24, 2017.

The ad-hoc committee will meet again on Thursday to discuss the results. The raw data was presented to the PSSC this evening.

1267 Students completed the survey during their English Classes. Percentage participation is $1267/1942 = 65.24\%$

The following data was taken upon observation of library use over the past three weeks:

- On average, there are 185 students using the library at lunch time.
- In the morning from 8:00 to 8:30, 140 students use the library.
- After school, 5 students use the library.
- There are 2 classes per period booked in the library.

Pam asked to have the following clarified:

- Purpose of the survey.
- Percentage participation.
- Time Range.

6. New Business

Library

The PSSC received a letter asking how the library space change will fold out. Rhonda and Shane will reply.

7. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Next meeting will take place December 18, 2017 at 5:30 PM in room C-22.

Motion for dismissal by Mark Taylor. Meeting Adjourned 7:25 pm.