

Fredericton High School Parent School Support Committee

MINUTES

Monday, November 6, 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

Kim Kelly

Pam Kitchen

Neville Peasley

Mark Taylor

Wendy Wright-Gardner

Patricia Kennedy, Student Rep

Vardaan Malhotra, Student Rep

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

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

2. Agenda & Minutes

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Joey and seconded Wendy. Approved.

Unanimous consensus was achieved at the suggestion by Rhonda to approve the minutes by email.

3. Reports

Student Report (P. Kennedy and V. Malhotra)

Halloween Howl occurred on October 26. Great turnout. Featured haunted hallway, escape rooms, a dance and games. Will be continued next year.

Two students attended the annual New Brunswick Student Leadership conference at the Delta. The students had the opportunity to speak to superintendent and the DEC to discuss school issues. FHS SRC has submitted a Legacy Project Proposal for a grant which would fund an Outdoor classroom.

Planning for Remembrance Day ceremony which will include the band, choir and speakers.

FHS SRC will host a community outreach event, a Senior's dinner, on November 15. This outreach project will take place at a local senior's home (Veteran's wing of DECH)

District Education Council Report (S. Haslem)

Budget surplus for March projected – Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance ASDW.

Superintendent presented her report on how she communicates with DEC (phone, emails).

DEC feedback on New Brunswick Student Leadership Summit: Technology an issue for students who want faster internet speeds/better connections.

The DEC presentation, Parenting in a Digital World by the social media safety guru, Sam Jingfors from *Safer Schools Tomorrow*, was very informative for all who attended on October 25. Mr.

Jingfors discussed:

- Snap chat, (pressure that is presented snap streaks and reciprocity of snaps);
- Vault apps (hidden apps for indecent photos);
- Anonymous apps (no names, anything goes);
- Location services (should be turned off because strangers can find people using Google maps)
- Putting the phones away at a certain time of night so that students can get some rest.

The information on Safer Schools Tomorrow could be shared on PSSC website. Stephanie will investigate to see if it was recorded. At least the handouts could be posted.

Teacher's Report (A. Rutledge)

Cell phones:

This issue was raised by teachers regarding cell phone disruption in classroom. This disruption

primarily comes from parents contacting students during school time. Please no texts/calls/facetime during class time. The need to have constant contact is a societal shift. Checking the phones is difficult for student to resist. Could PSSC put out a message to parents? Or could it come from DEC/Dept. of Education? PSSC will post article “Have smartphones Destroyed a Generation?” on our tab of the website.

Library:

There has been a recent change order to construct new offices in library. There will be square footage lost from library which will go to District Office construction. This affects the learning environment for students in English and Social Studies. Functional capacity of building: although it used to accommodate 3000 students and there was lots of room, the district office was added and has been growing ever since. Fredericton Education Centre, AMSD and the Multicultural Association are also requesting space in the building.

Conversation on libraries right now: Liberal arts people want to arrest the trend of shrinking library size. In their opinion the other subject area groups aren't losing their space: e.g. science labs, gym space. In fact, there are new maker spaces, innovation space.

Perhaps use the JCSH Positive Mental Health Indicators – space for students to socialize and feel reinforced.

Is library space being well utilized right now? There is empty space on the top level. We are purging old books but not replacing stock. Could we optimize the space better? Lounge chairs, charge centres? Add library to the provincial library system and keep it open at night?

Suggestion was made to have a student survey to determine what the students think about the current library. This could be accomplished using English classroom time. The PSSC will consider what we could offer as assistance once we hear the results of student poll.

Principal's Report (N. Langille)

Construction update:

To be completed by August 2018. It is a mid-life upgrade of the school. There have been noise concerns (more at the beginning of the project) and they are addressed by the construction company when they arise.

It is a 5-step process. Completed basement (1) and middle floor (2). Construction is currently in F wing above district office (3). Top floor will be next (4). D Wing over the summer (5).

Electrical / plumbing / ventilation comprises the majority of the \$14 million cost.

Safety is being addressed, although there are always issues as there are no inspectors looking out for students. The current inspectors are focused on worker's safety. It is a constant job to keep an eye on work area.

Construction of washrooms is sometimes inconvenient, especially for new students who are unaware of location of alternative. It is a balancing act to keep enough open for students.

Volunteers:

Last year a suggestion was made by PSSC to have an inventory of parent subject matter expert volunteers at the school. Teachers and school committees could be aware of parent's skills to determine if they could use their assistance.

Population:

Student population is 1942; School was funded for a population of 1848 in September. This year FHS received an additional 1.5 FTE.

Math 9 A and B:

Enrichment is not a certainty to continue. Participation has challenges. Students don't like the double math period that occurs in grade 10. Currently the enrollment sits at 24 or 23 students.

PSSC Budget:

The budget for this year is \$5614.99. The cost for synervice last year was \$3856.05. The bill for this year has not been received yet, however, the cost will be close to this amount. The estimated remaining balance is: \$1758.94. Balance must be spent by end of March 2018. Request for budget

from previous years by Pam. R. Baker Gordon/N. Langille will bring to next meeting.

SPR Presentations:

There will be SPR presentations for this year's PSSC where SPR's will present growth goals for each Department. There will be three presentations per PSSC meeting, Schedule was presented to PSSC: Nov 27, Dec 18 Jan 29 and Feb 26.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

None

5. New Business

Healthy Schools Communities Committee:

Healthy Schools Communities Committee is looking for a Parent Rep. to replace Jeannine. Meeting time 3:45-4:30. Nathan will forward the email from HSC committee. Rhonda will send email to Daneen Dymond to determine the method to approach maintaining an inventory of parents who would be available to participate in school activities.

Nutrition Policy Overview/Update Review (Policy 7-11):

A review will be completed within the 2017/18 school year. There is still focus from all over the province on this policy. FHS maintains that high schools need to be treated differently, i.e. selling of coffee.

Student attendees input on cafeteria: Not many good options, and therefore it is not appealing to students... and it is pricey. Students are habituated to going elsewhere due to the late cafeteria opening this year (due to construction).

Mark shared that Miramichi has an innovative solution to the problem with a parent led non-profit program to assist the school program. It has been very successful.

School Improvement Plan:

This is the final year for the current plan. In the Spring the principal needs a PSSC member volunteer to join the school committee.

School Traffic:

Parent drop off line in mornings. Wendy noted that parents are not respecting the correct pathway. Can we send message to parents to remind them of Etiquette/Rules?

6. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Next meeting will take place November 27, 2017 at 5:30 PM in room C-22.

Motion for dismissal by Karen Flinn, seconded by Neville Peasley. Meeting Adjourned 7:10 pm.

Minutes prepared by: C. Gorman-Asal