

## **Fairvale Elementary School Parent School Support Committee September 30th, 2021 Minutes**

• **Introduction of Members-** Jill McDonald, Joanne Hanson, Nela Ramirez, Jessica Verner, Jonathon Barry, Kate-Lynn Holmes, Kandice Jones, Drew Palmer, Sharf Chowdhury, Laurie Shillington (Teacher Representative), Bonnie Hierlihy (Principal), Sarah Richards (Vice Principal)

• **Overview of role of PSSC** – Bonnie reviewed the District Education Council (DEC) brochure on the roles and responsibilities of the PSSC including offering advice to the school administration on: school policies; partnerships within the community; maintaining a positive learning environment; supporting the language and culture of the school and planning for school improvement. PSSC members help the principal on education issues; develop and monitor the School Improvement Plan; review the School Performance Report; assist with developing school policies; communicate with the DEC; provide input into the hiring of the principal and vice principals and provide input into the performance evaluations of the principal and vice principals. Jonathon Barry, DEC member shared his interest in what schools are doing and how their SIPs align with the DIP.

• **“Healthy & Safe Schools” Guidelines for Covid-19 and Other Infectious Diseases 2021-2022-** Bonnie shared the guidelines set out by GNB for schools this year including lessons learned, mask wearing, class sizes, limiting interaction with other classes and bussing protocols. She then outlined the changes to this document that have occurred since the beginning of the year including proof of vaccination to participate in sport and extra-curricular activities as well as staff being required to either be fully vaccinated or take a rapid test three times each week.

• **School Improvement Plan Overview-** Sarah provided an overview of the FES School Improvement Plan (SIP). She discussed the Mission, Vision, and ongoing positive practices that FES has implemented. For our 2020-2022 Plan, FES has created two Ends Policies:

**Ends Policy #1** (which aligns with District Improvement Plan Ends Policy #2)- To increase the engagement of children by embedding global competencies into teaching and learning with a focus on the competency Self Awareness & Learning to Learn. Last year, FES teachers engaged in a book study where they examined the pillars of growth mindset including optimism, flexibility, resilience, persistence, and empathy. Classes will continue with their work on developing students' growth mindset and the Global Competency Self Awareness & Learning to Learn.

**Ends Policy #2** (which aligns with District Improvement Plan Ends Policy #2)- Teachers will focus on learner-centred strategies that promote engagement, active processing, the construction of subject-specific knowledge (assessment for learning process, personalized learning, student choice).

Sarah discussed the new work that the K-2 English teachers are doing around the Science of Reading. She described the learning modules, changes to curriculum and the supporting documents created by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD). The focus in K-2 English Language Arts will be on developing the Building Blocks of Reading (phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary development and comprehension) in our students.

- **Proposal for PSSC Funding** – Our committee's funding is tied to communication. Bonnie will share budget next meeting.
- **PSSC Declaration-** We ask that members please sign and return the Declaration by our next meeting.
- **Meeting Dates for the Year-** The committee chose Wednesdays to be our meeting day. The dates for our meetings this year are: **Oct. 20, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>** (no meetings in December, March and June).
- **Once Around the Table**