**Fairvale Elementary School**

**Parent School Support Committee**

**November 15, 2018**

Present: Linda Sherbo (DEC Representative), Bonnie Hierlihy (Principal), Sarah Richards (Vice Principal)

Parents – Emily McGill (Chair), Yulia Roherty (Secretary), Sharf Chowdhury, Doug McMillan, Nela Ramirez, Leah Trevor, Theresa Johnston, Angela Little

Absent – Jennifer Michaud (Teacher Representative)

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm in the Boardroom at FES.

**Greeting of Members**

Committee members re-introduced themselves, since it was only the second meeting since the beginning of the school year.

1. **New Business**
2. **Teacher Training on Global Competencies**

* Focus on the District improvement plan
* Teachers received foundational training from Mark Perry, district champion for global competencies
* Follow up training will be scheduled on a variety of issues (i.e. citizenship, problem solving in the classroom, etc.)
* Global competencies include critical thinking, citizenship, entrepreneurship, innovation, personalized learning and leadership in teaching and learning.
* It will take time for all teachers to incorporate global competencies into their teaching and to become comfortable in their role of facilitator. Some current projects that incorporate global competencies are our school garden project, Remembrance Day projects, Me to We initiatives.

1. **Report Card Update**

* Mrs. Hierlihy and Ms. Richards have read all 365 report cards and offered feedback/suggestions to teachers. They wanted to ensure that the language/descriptors used aligned with the grade (1,2,3,3+, 4, 4+) given and that next steps were individualized to the student. Also, they were looking for evidence that demonstrated that teachers knew the children as learners and as individuals with interests, strengths, and areas of growth.
* Linda Sherbo, the DEC Representative, asked a question if the parents are aware that their kids’ report cards have been previewed. Some parents-members didn’t know.
* Committee members agree that education has changed on the level of instruction and reporting
* Suggestion from a parent member to promote outdoor learning, engagement and innovation

1. **Ends Policy #1 – Improving School Climate and Maintaining a Positive Learning Environment**

* Principal, Bonnie Hierlihy, gave an overview of the policy, indicating FES successes in the area of diversity and inclusivity:
* A new “welcome wagon” family committee will be formed,
* Ongoing education about diverse cultures and families,
* “Christmas” concert has been renamed to “holiday” concert
* New gender-neutral bathroom for students and staff.
* A parent wanted to know if all FES parents are on board with the school’s policy on diversity and LGBTQ. Bonnie responded that there have been differences of opinions on occasion; however, the school community will continue to promote and celebrate diversity and inclusivity. That said, all families and beliefs are respected at FES.
* FES successes in the area of social and emotional learning opportunities:
* Overall positive learning environment,
* Recognition of students who live the 7 habits,
* Including WITS into lesson planning and activities,
* Roots of Empathy project continues,
* Expanding Zones of Regulation project and sensory room,
* Ivan Bachynsky, Occupational Therapist, is scheduled to provide additional training to educational assistants in the sensory room on Nov. 23rd.

1. **Old Business**
2. **Update from “Kids Have Stress Too” information night**

* The event was held at FES in partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association. At first, we only had a small number of participants from our school (13). But Bonnie shared the information with the other elementary school principals, and as a result, 29 parents collectively were able to participate.
* The session was presented by 2 Mental Health facilitators. It was well received, with a lot of positive feedback. One parent mentioned that it was especially beneficial for children who have difficulty expressing themselves.
* Linda Sherbo shared how she had recently attended the Cannabis Symposium that discussed mental health issues globally. The so-called Iceland Project is targeted towards elimination of drug abuse among teenagers by way of giving options, such as redirecting their interests and engaging them in healthier life styles.
* Linda also gave an update on Policy 409 – Multi-Year School Infrastructure Planning, indicating a few socio-economic issues in the area. There is still no time frame for construction of the new school in the South End of Saint John.

1. **Next Meeting**

January 17 at 7:30 pm

1. **Once Around the Table**

Members are excited about being on the committee, learning about District policies and new opportunities. They anticipate possible changes in the education system to be introduced by the new NB government and Premier Blaine Higgs. The parents expressed thanks to the FES school community for doing a good job at implementing ends policies and for continued innovations.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.