

Fundy Middle & High School PSSC Meeting via ZOOM

MINUTES

December 8th, 2021, at 6:30

Attendance: Donna Domres, Lindsay Thompson, Krista Kernighan, Holly Hannon, Cheryl Stuart, Sadie Gagner, Rob McDougall, Krista Campbell, Patrick McDade, Sarah Cheney

Regrets: Shane Borthwick, Shannon Keefe, Darlene Thompson, Claire Thompson, Shawn Draper, Jennifer Smith, Shelly Merrill-McKillop

Welcome & Introductions given by Donna

Minutes from Last Meeting

- Reviewed by Donna Domres
- Motion to Approve by Holly Hannon
- Seconded by Lindsay Thompson

Follow up from previous minutes

- Donna suggested that older students could give a seminar to parents on how to use teams or zoom and how to troubleshoot
- Patrick agreed that this could happen later in the year
- Sadie commented that one of the big difficulties is the differences in the appearance of the interfaces between a laptop and a tablet/phone. High school students, teachers and some parents are often on laptops. Middle school students and many parents are often on tablets or phones.

Building Better School Environments

- Topic: In previous meetings we talked about appropriate structures for middle school kids to bridge the transition from playgrounds at the elementary schools toward their high school years. Ideally to create universal exterior structures used by all students during the day and community members on evenings and weekends.
- Patrick noted that there is continued talk but not a lot of action. He asked for PSSC to help move this forward.
- **ACTION:** PSSC members to connect with Home & School on ideas for fundraising. Also, to brainstorm ideas via email within this group.

Makerspace Fundraiser

- Patrick asked to put a push on ticket sales. The Makerspace will be an amazing resource for the students. Extra tickets are available through Rebecca Rudderham. Sold ticket stubs and \$\$ must be returned to the school by Dec 20th. Draw date is Dec 23rd. Prize is \$1000 cash.
- **ACTION:** Patrick will ask Rebecca to make a sharable social media information poster, so parents can help.
- **ACTION:** Parents to spread the word and help kids sell tickets.

High School Grad Celebration

- Donna: Raised concern that unvaccinated students and family may not be able to attend if policies are implemented.
- Sarah: Stated the importance to plan well in advance to ensure that the ceremony is inclusive to everyone. Be sure to envision what it might look like if there is a vaccine mandate/ passport requirement implemented by the province on gatherings such as this.
- Patrick: Doesn't envision that there would be a mandate that would not allow students to be present when receiving a diploma, since they are allowed to be present for the studies/classes to attain it. He has reached out to Zoe Watson with no definitive info on this topic yet.
- Sarah: Asked about the level of involvement of the school and parents in the design of the grad ceremony.
- Patrick: Once the school receives the parameters from the district/government then individual schools can design their own ceremony. Fundy tries to align with other schools so ours has a similar style to others in the extended community.
- Patrick: commented that he loves the grad experience of the past two years, particularly the aspect where it is outdoors and that it has such a family focus and really highlights each grad.
- Donna: Suggested that PSSC write an impact statement as parents to get ahead of any restrictive policy.
- Rob: Asked whether a letter about ceremony logistics and vaccine requirements fits within the PSSC mandate.
- Everyone agrees that a grad ceremony design must be created that it is inclusive to all grads and family members. We recognized that the concept of inclusiveness goes beyond graduation. It affects sports, student committees and other future activities of the students.
- Lindsay asked if some committees had moved to zoom/teams to accommodate unvaccinated students. Patrick confirmed that, yes, some had done this.
- **ACTION:** Donna will draft a statement from the PSSC that is student centered about the general impact of policies.
- **ACTION:** Parents (of grads in particular) will write letters of concern to be sure that an inclusive vision exists when drafting policies/parameters for ceremonies.
- **ACTION:** Patrick will continue to ask for information and watch for any restrictive policies during his meetings with the district officials.

Middle School Lunch

- A question was raised by Shawn prior to the meeting: why do the grades 6 and 7 dine together, while grade 8 dine alone? Patrick stated that it is all about logistics of space at the tables due to covid restrictions, flow of students, cycling of outdoor spaces, bell schedules, etc, in an effort to keep various groups somewhat separate as part of the guidelines for school operation during the pandemic. Very difficult to start making exceptions for certain kids to hang out.

Review of Last Year's Assessment Data

- Patrick presented the newly released data for the provincial assessment data. General result is that our school is doing okay in English (particularly the Grade 9s), however we are coming in below average in the French Language components. Patrick expressed his frustration with the

current French Immersion structure and looks forward to a possible redesign of the FI program. Particularly for our area of SW New Brunswick, there is a big disconnect from the French culture, so it is difficult for students to find relevance to their studies, which creates a huge lack of motivation. The FI program must be a combined effort of students, teachers, and parents. The assessments have a large portion of inferential understanding, which requires a deeper level of understanding the language. This will take big reinforcement from home and more relevant resources available to the teachers, to achieve improvement on the French assessments.

- Extensive discussion on how to expose the students to the French Culture, where the language is from, and why they want to learn it. We also discussed the timing of the FI class (either first or second semester) for high school students to best be able to do well on the assessment, but also to gain comfort in the language for their other subjects taught in French. Suggestions to bring in French speaking community members to the classroom or to connect with the home countries of our French speaking staff members as a cultural connection.
- Patrick expressed frustration with the turnover of teachers at FMHS and how this affects the stability of the learning environment for the students. It takes time for a teacher to settle into a school. What incentives can be offered to retain teachers at our rural school? When they commute from the city, it is very enticing to take a position in the city when it comes up.
- **ACTION:** PSSC will contact Shelley at DEC as a channel to make French Immersion sustainable in our community.
- **ACTION:** PSSC Members will brainstorm ideas of how to make French relevant in our community.
- **ACTION:** Patrick will continue to work with the teachers and the schedule to determine the best timing for intense French instruction in the semester system.

Next Meeting: February 2nd at 6:30pm

Minutes submitted by: Sadie Gagner

Secretary Rotation:

Sadie Gagner – December 8, 2021

Lindsay Thompson – November 3rd, 2021

Darlene Thompson – September 22nd, 2021

Krista Kernighan – May 21st, 2021

Holly Hannon – April 14th, 2021

Rob McDougall – March 10th, 2021

Shawn Draper – February 3rd, 2021

Shannon Keefe – December 2nd, 2020

Lindsay Thompson – November 7th, 2020

Mary Cheverie – October 4th, 2020

Shane Borthwick – September 1st, 2020