

Fredericton High School Parent School Support Committee

MINUTES

Monday, November 26, 2018 – 5:30 pm, Room C22

Present:

Nathan Langille - Acting Principal
Rhonda Baker Gordon - Chair
Coleen Gorman-Asal - Vice-Chair
Kim Kelly
Pam Kitchen

Karen Flinn
Joey Bernard
Tracey Burkhardt
Andrew Rutledge - Teacher Representative
Stephanie Haslam - DEC Representative

Regrets:

Jason Farris
Wendy Wright-Gardner
Student Representatives - K. Burns, V.Khaitan

1. Welcome

R. Baker Gordon welcomed the group.

2. Approvals

Agenda- Motion to approve agenda made by Coleen Gorman-Asal and seconded by Tracey Burkhardt. All in favour.

Minutes – Minutes from October 29, 2018 meeting were approved prior to meeting via email.

3. Reports

SPR Growth Goal Presentations

Social Studies – Mr. Greg Peters

Mr. Peters gave an overview of the Professional Growth Goal for the Social Studies Dept. He circulated a document explaining that the focus is on teaching, modeling and assessing the skill of contextualization of knowledge. He advised the dept. spent the last year discussing assessment beyond content knowledge. Students need to understand history in context, not just memorize content. Plan is to ask questions on exam this term and then next term provide more context and then compare results. Final exams are marked as a team. Mandatory courses are offered both terms.

Second Language – Mrs. Marie-Josée Paulin

Mrs. Paulin circulated the Professional Growth Goals. The ten teachers in her department are looking at ways to assess and motivate students to improve overall scores on projects. Focus is the Grade 9's and 10's as for these grades the courses are mandatory. Students in Grade 11 and 12 have less zeros as these courses are electives. She advised that while the average class goal of 75% has been met, the department wants to better engage all students. She is aware the English department is trialing a form on the issue of students not completing assignments.

Health & Physical Education – Mr. Jeff Currie

Mr. Currie is acting SPR for this department while Ms. Diamond is a temporary assignment as Vice-Principal. He circulated the Professional Growth Goals and explained one of the initiatives is working with students with high special needs that don't really participate in physical education. The goal is

to have a detailed plan for the five units to better engage the Education Assistants and the students. His team worked on developing ideas at the last PD day.

The second initiative is to introduce use of technology. He gave an example of doing a 3D printing of a student's activity level throughout a day demonstrating the peaks and valleys.

A question was raised about sledge hockey and he advised that he brought in wheelchair basketball in the past. He discussed a game using a ball with a bell.

Student Report

No report for this meeting as the student representatives were unable to attend.

Chair of PSSC Report

Rhonda Baker Gordon, Karen Flinn and Wendy Wright-Gardner attended the recent DEC symposium. Ms. Baker Gordon gave an overview of the five sessions she attended. One session involved a group of students and a teacher from James M Hill school in the Miramichi. They discussed mental health and the impact of a suicide of a fellow student. They completed a project on available resources and had concrete recommendations for the school, DEC and deputy minister.

The PSSC discussed hosting a parent night on the topic of mental health.

Ms. Baker Gordon discussed some of the other sessions including Using Technology to engage teachers, Community Engagement, and Nourishing Minds- a non-profit group that provides funding for breakfast for students.

Ms. Baker Gordon has asked Mr. Langille what types of data the school collected and what data the PSSC should review.

PSSC members can contact Ms. Baker Gordon or the other attendees directly if they are interested in more detailed information on the sessions.

District Education Council Report

S. Haslam gave update on recent DEC activities.

- DEC symposium – she attended as well.
- Student Voice – DEC has asked former member Terry Pond to organize bi-monthly meetings to have students talk to DEC in an effort to improve student engagement. The Education Act indicates one student voice is required at DEC.
- Student Leadership Conference is upcoming.
- Policy 711 – new minister has further relaxed this policy.
- Power outage plan – Ms. Haslam raised the concern regarding the plan to keep students in place for two hours during power outage. DEC believes they are meeting health and safety guidelines.
- PSSC request to use budget dollars to fund the release of teacher to update website – S. Haslam confirmed she did not get approval to do this at last DEC meeting. DEC said the PSSC handbook will be updated, and the superintendent will be taking the website issue to the other superintendents to discuss.

Teacher's Report

Mr. Rutledge explained that the teachers wanted PSSC to be aware of issues related to Education Assistants (EA's). He advised that EA's are dealing with medical issues most of the time and overall resources are limited with absenteeism and turnover.

Mr. Rutledge also circulated a list of comments that teachers are allowed to select on the new Power School system for report cards. Given it is province-wide system, it was agreed that it would be more appropriate for teachers to raise at their upcoming union meetings.

Principal's Report

Acting Principal Mr. Langille gave an update on the following:

Power School –organizing committee is working on an information package for parents. Plan is to register Grade 9 students during exam week and then again in April during parent/teacher meetings.

School Messenger – District will be paying for this system so will not need to be budgeted by PSCC.

Library renewal project –Top Floor is Currently at tender process. Main floor is being finalized. Plan is to have items in place by end of the school year.

PSCC budget – have received an answer regarding PSCC budget being spent on supply to allow Mr. Tapley to do more with website communications. He did a proposal and he thinks he could provide sufficient enhancements with 3.0 staff days at a cost of \$711 per year. The DEC response was that this did not meet the spirit of the requirements for expenditure. However, School Messenger is a similar tool that has been paid for out of this budget in the past.

ACTION: Agreed that R. Gordon Baker would follow up with S. Haslam.

Policy 711–N. Langille had circulated the emails and recent media discussion. New government is reviewing this policy.

Safe Grad – N. Langille advised a meeting will be held with staff to discuss Safe Grad to determine volunteer needs, etc.

PSST – N. Langille received a response to the list of questions that PSCC provided.

ACTION: PSCC members will the review the response document in preparation for the next PSCC meeting and confirm then if there are any outstanding issues of concern.

Memorial Guidelines – N. Langille circulated a guideline document that was developed to provide support for school teams in making decisions around memorials.

ACTION: PSCC members will the review the Memorial Guidelines document for discussion at our next PSCC meeting and a PSSC member will need to be a part of a review/implementation committee.

Student access to Lawyers/Legal Advice – N. Langille advised that he has had early discussion on how students could access lawyers/legal advice at school. He will provide more information once details finalized.

Upcoming surveys –Our School survey, Teacher Perception survey, Wellness survey, Grade 12 exit survey.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meeting

Budget – N. Langille confirmed the District is going to pay for School Messenger. As well, DEC did

not support PSSC request to **fund** supply hours to release the IT teacher to update the website. The group discussed possible funding ideas including:

- New posters for Parent/Teacher meetings to advertise the ten minute time slots
- Parent-teacher sign-up sheets
- Organizing parent nights on topics such as vaping, mental health, cannabis and linking such topics with the Wellness Wheel developed by Guidance Dept.
- Communication documents on course selection.
- Teacher/Staff appreciation
- USB key with logo and contact information as on magnet.
- School achievement brochure (online or hard copy)

ACTION: Pam will explore further

- Welcome to FHS document for new Gr 9 families
- Cameras, etc. for communications – Pam

ACTION: Nathan will ask student media group if they need cameras

ACTION: R. Baker Gordon will contact Guidance Department about the possibility of partnering to host a parent evening and potential topics and timeframes related to Wellness Wheel. A sub-group of members including Rhonda, Coleen, Kim, Joey and Tracey (who will take the lead) volunteered to work on coordinating an event.

PSSC members will prepare budget ideas for final review and discussion at next PSSC meeting.

5. New Business

See discussion under Principal's Report.

6. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Next meeting: December 17, 2018

Minutes prepared by: Kim Kelly