

## Fredericton High School Parent School Support Committee

### MINUTES

Monday, October 29, 2018 – 5:30 p.m., Room C22

<b>Present:</b>	Jason Farris
Nathan Langille - Acting Principal	Karen Flinn
Rhonda Baker Gordon - Chair	Wendy Wright-Gardner
Coleen Gorman-Asal - Vice-Chair	Joey Bernard
Stephanie Haslam - DEC Representative	Andrew Rutledge - Teacher Representative
Kim Kelly	Student Representatives - K. Burns, V. Khaitan
Pam Kitchen	
Tracey Burkhardt	

#### 1. Welcome

R. Baker Gordon welcomed group to first official PSSC meeting of the year.

#### 2. Approvals

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

Minutes – Minutes from October 1, 2018 meeting were approved prior to meeting via email.

#### 3. Reports

##### **SPR Growth Goal Presentations**

##### **English – Mrs. Valerie Marshall**

Mrs. Marshall gave an overview of the Professional Growth Goal for the English Dept. Focus is on the implementation of the use of the Late/Incomplete Assignment form for at least one class per English teacher. The form provides an opportunity for teachers to have meaningful conversations with students about why assignments are incomplete or late. Assignments are evidence of student learning. Late or incomplete assignments are about behaviour. Teachers are gathering data to get a baseline of the extent of the problem.

PSSC members asked questions about data collection and value of knowing the difference if one student was late 10 times versus 10 students late once. Also briefly discussed value of giving zeros on assignments and issue can be brought forward for larger discussion if desired.

##### **Guidance – Mrs. Suzanne Maxwell**

Mrs. Maxwell advised that the last school year was challenging responding to students in crisis. This school year, the focus is on a six dimension focus Wellness Wheel. Plan is to target a different dimension each month. Posters are up all over the school. There was a slight delay in initial implementation due to some unplanned staffing changes. An additional resource was added with a focus on international students.

Mrs. Maxwell will also be accessing the School Messenger system and will be sending out periodic messages on Wednesdays. She advised she may be asking PSSC for funding.

PSSC member asked if students are still assigned to Guidance staff by last name. Mrs. Maxwell advised that is the normal process; however with staffing changes including admin support there may be some differences. As well Grade 12's may be assigned by homeroom.

## **Social Studies – Mr. Greg Peters**

Mr. Peters was unable to attend meeting so discussion will be rescheduled for future meeting.

### **Student Report**

V. Khaitan and K. Burns gave an update on recent activities of SRC including Grade 9 Day to welcome new students to FHS. Focus is on school spirit. First week of school also had a BBQ and Pep Rally. SRC also organized a Welcome to the Jungle event which is an outdoor carnival theme with games and fireworks. Approximately 400 students attended. Focus for this month has been Socktober, a fundraising event to gather socks and other warm accessories for five charities. There will be a karaoke event at TMT. The Halloween Howl had to be cancelled due to weather. SRC also attended a Renaissance conference at KVHS. Another upcoming event is the Heroes breakfast, an event for those students who are a positive role model. A Remembrance Day ceremony will be held next week.

A PSSC member suggested a dunk tank to help fundraise for Soctober however there are logistical issues related to such an endeavor. A PSSC member had a question about what communication methods were used to advise Grade 9 students of the first day celebration. V. Khaitain advised she used a number of social media that would be relevant to Grade 9's. Mr. Langille advised the BBQ was a celebration not a meal replacement event.

### **District Education Council Report**

S. Haslam gave update on recent DEC meeting.

Kingsclear Elementary School - the DEC voted to keep the Kingsclear Elementary open and agreed to further investment. A motion to complete a catchment review study and to add French immersion was not supported

CUPE – have received a library funding request.

Student Leadership Conference – will be held this week at the Delta Fredericton

Nashwaaksis Memorial School – sustainability study will be discussed at meeting on November 1, 2018.

Policy 711 – have asked for this policy to be revoked.

PSSC budget – have received an answer regarding PSSC budget being spent on supply to allow Mr. Tapley to do more with website communications.

### **Teacher's Report**

Mr. Rutledge advised that this Fall had some of the highest turnover of staff but he wanted to commend Mr. Langille for managing with minimal disruption. He said that some teachers had minor concerns about parental expectations with plan for Power School to go live for Grade 9 students in the New Year.

### **Principal's Report**

Wellness week – Wellness Wheel poster up around the school

Power School – Going live for Grade 9 students in Semester Two. An implementation committee has been established to develop readiness plan. May need an SPR for this in the future. Plan is to implement for other grades in future school years. Still work to be done for Grade 12 students as grad profiles are an issue. Parent communication is key. OHS is already live and providing feedback on things that need attention. One of the biggest issues is parents getting locked out of the system.

School Messenger – Working to get an answer on whether PSSC budget is going to pay for School Messenger.

Library renewal project – Committee has been working on getting new couches, tables, blinds, etc. for Library. Currently at tender process. Cost is approximately \$140,000. Will start with the top floor. Hope to have items in place by end of the school year.

PSSC budget – Have received an answer regarding PSSC budget being spent on supply to allow Mr. Tapley to do more with website communications. He did a proposal and thinks he could do sufficient enhancements with 3.0 staff days at a cost of \$711 per year. 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. Baker Gordon would follow up with S. Haslam.

Policy 711 – School is following the relaxed current policy as per the Ministers of Education directive in September however some things were changed over the summer. Vending machines basically just have water. N. Langille has email he will circulate to PSSC. New policy implementation raised concerns regarding fundraising for events, athletics and things like Kats Kitchen.

ACTION: N. Langille will circulate emails.

Safe Schools week – Evacuation was delayed due to weather but finally completed. Power outage plan has been developed. District has indicated school is to stay open for two hours before dismissing students. PSSC member expressed concern that this does not meet the requirements of the OHS Act for the employees at the school.

ACTION: S. Haslam agreed to share this concern with DEC.

Safe Grad – Discussion about some of the various issues surrounding the holding of this event at its current location, including increasing liability and volunteer support.

#### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meeting**

PSST - At the end of the last school year, PSSC had asked School District for clarification on a number of issues and had requested a representative attend a meeting to discuss. PSSC members were given an information package to review over the summer. PSSC members agreed that the matter was not yet resolved.

ACTION: R. Baker Gordon to email N. Langille the list of questions so he may discuss at his bi-weekly meetings with District staff. N. Langille will provide update at November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **5. New Business**

FHS Breakfast for Kats Kitchen – Fundraising event scheduled for November 3, 2018 at the New Maryland Rec Centre. Kats Kitchen provides food security for breakfast and lunch for over 120 students. It cost \$20,000 annually to operate. Real Estate Board of the Fredericton area just announced a significant donation (approx. \$9,200).

Media requests – R. Baker Gordon reminded PSSC members that the Chair, in conjunction with the principal, is the only one that speaks on behalf of the PSSC for media requests.

Attendance – PSSC advised N. Langille that the absence message suggest parents contact the school if there is an error in message.

DEC Symposium – R. Baker Gordon is attending upcoming event.

Smoking/vaping in school bathrooms – N. Langille advised that there would be a targeted crackdown on vaping in school bathrooms.

Smoking/vaping on nearby property – PSSC member expressed concern about persons selling vaping equipment out of trunk at local properties. As not school property, no action can be taken by principal; however, parents are strongly being encouraged to call the local business.

#### **6. Closing Comments and Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

*Minutes prepared by: Kim Kelly*