

## **FRH Parent Council Meeting – Feb. 20, 2019 6: 00 pm**

Attendance: Lonnie Hicks, Aaron Tuckwood, Rita Lal, Brandi Mah, Colleen Miller-Helwig, Jeff Hanrahan, Lori Reich-Smith, Andrea Moniz, Don Irwin Robin Butterworth

Regrets:

1. Call to Order
2. Review November meeting minutes – Greg Hanrahan moved to accept the November minutes, Lori Reich-Smith seconded. Motion passed
3. Review Agenda - Andrea Moniz moved to accept agenda with additions - Old Business - Update on Cyber Fridays, New Business - Feeder Schools. Brandi Mah seconded, and motion was passed.
4. Trustee Report – Trustee Don Irwin
  - Update on honors program – See email attached to minutes – there is a new program being developed this year which will be implemented in 2020/21.
  - Handout - Annual Education Results Report 17/18 Handout – reviewed the overall accountability Pillars EIPS improved significantly in these areas. Safe and Caring Schools – EIPS ranked excellent. For a copy of the report [www.eips.ca/about-us/financial-information/audited-financial-statements](http://www.eips.ca/about-us/financial-information/audited-financial-statements).
  - Media Policy (phones, instruments) – The School Board has been asked to develop a media policy. There will be a student gathering next week for students in grade 4 – 12 to give input on what is distracting, works well or not, then a survey will be sent out.
  - Jeff Hanrahan asked question about violence towards teachers that has been tabled from previous discussions – Don talked about the fact that this is an issue, particularly for teaching assistants. Administration encourages staff to make a complaint should something happen. Discussion about how teachers are trained to educate – what tools are teachers and staff given to de-escalate situations and protect themselves. Don committed to getting more information to bring back to the committee.

## 5. Old Business

- a. **RCMP presentation on local drug use, signs and symptoms – Discussion and identify new possible dates.** No date for this yet. New constable, name Jason Z. (Zap). Lonnie will aim to get this presentation for our May meeting.
- b. **Follow up with Cyber-Fridays** – Mr. Tuckwood gave an update. They have had good traffic, around 300 – 400 people. Mr. Tuckwood talked about the Student Technology Responsible Users Agreement is an agreement that students, parents and staff use. It outlines expectations for using personal and school technology. Comment made that there should be a district approach to ensure that parents understand the issues that the schools deal with regarding technology. Don Irwin identified that this is happening as part of the policy that they are working on.

## 6. New Business

- a. **Board Policy 19 – the establishment of gender-neutral washrooms at FRH & discussion** – See document attached to minutes. Lonnie presented - To be compliant with Human Rights and Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, this building, need to ensure that everyone has equality. FRH will create two gender neutral washrooms. The space has been identified. It is easy to create gender specific bathrooms in this building with minimal cost or renovations. The school will explain to students that this is the law.  
**Discussion:** Currently there are 28 total bathrooms in the school. Are we doing the right thing by only converting two stalls? Does it create a focal point for certain individuals? Lonnie talked about this being a thoughtful first step so that they can take the time to have discussion with the students about why. He sees the possibility in the future of removing the “Boys” and “Girls” signs from all the bathrooms. If you do gender neutral bathrooms everywhere, the choice is taken away. It is important that everyone has options. Will start with this and then will continually go back and revisit the situation. There has been extensive consultation. It is a person’s right to identify their gender and it is important to give them choice. Communication plan hasn’t been formalized yet but plan to roll it out in Health and Social Studies classes.
- b. **Feeder Schools** – Greg was at Facey Council meeting. Learned that Facey is very concerned about the number of students that will be coming to Facey next year. They only have one Jr. High that feeds them where as other High School has three or four.

**Discussion:** Both High schools are open boundary schools. FRH has been a closed boundary school because they were over capacity. FRH is the only JR high where students are designated to go to Facey. Problem is that there has been so much flux with the boundary program is that people feel that they are fighting to get their kids into the school they want to go to. There needs to be more of a conversation in the community about these things. High Schools don't have the ability to promote in the feeder schools. Open boundaries are not advertised. Boundaries opened and closed is on the EIPS Website. Lonnie anticipates that FRH will be open boundary next year (20/21). All grade 9's are visited by Facey staff, if there is a request for information about other High Schools, they are provided. Also provide information on all open houses to parents. The intent of boundaries is to get schools to their optimal enrollment. Lonnie recommends that the Trustee should be talking to central administration and that the principle from Facey will be taking the issue forward.

#### 7. Principal's Report –

- Parent Teacher interviews mid-March
- Curriculum review and implementation – PD Day – Literacy and numeracy consultants presented to FRH staff who were interested and want to engage in scholarship about what the new curriculum will be like. Subject Focuses will be -Arts Fitness Math Science English and Social, focus on project and competency-based learning. FRH Staff will be well positioned for Curriculum Implementation in 2 and a half years. Jeff Hanrahan asked if the school anticipating any additional staff to help transition through the curriculum? There has been a secondment who will support a plan to support staff. The plan is being created, Lonnie is confident that there will be resourcing to prepare for the change.
- Looking for efficiencies in schedule as they get closer to optimum enrollment level. This has some budget implications. This will help to maximize staff and still meet instructional minutes requirements. Election date may also have implications to budgets
- Rita – Student Voice – difficulty getting kids to come out at lunch – implemented Theme Days for school spirit. This month is music. Next month is twin day. Students want to have music playing at lunch time, before school and after school. Student Voice is going well. Overture with the Arts is a company who will come out and talk about using the Arts to promote Black History. Were able to bring them in and coordinate with Facey students – fostering black history month for women. Performance today was based on Canadian Black History.

- Jeff made the comment that he is noticing that his kids coming home with a very opinionated view about certain topics in Social and English programs where there is an increase in the focus on indigenous culture. In addition, these subjects also have marking that is subjectively graded. Needs to be more control on subjects that are graded based on subjective opinions as he expressed concern that there is a possibility that grades can vary greatly based on whether the teacher agrees with the opinion of the student. Lonnie shared that the Indigenous Curriculum is necessary as part of the Truth and Reconciliation Work. Invited all to go into the New Learn website and compare the new curriculum. All the subjects have Numeracy, Literacy, Francophone, and Indigenous concepts. Want students to express their opinions and have evidence to support their opinions. Would like to see more global content in the social studies curriculum. Lonnie indicated that there will be many opportunities for parents to consult on the new curriculum. If parents have concerns about how the curriculum is being presented or about the conduct of any teacher, then parents are welcome to speak to an administrator.

8. Confirm next meeting date - March 20 at 6pm

9. March 13, 6:00pm – There will be a presentation 1-2 hr presentation about the implications of Cannabis. Is there a conflict with parent teacher interviews? Lonnie will look into it.

10. Meeting Adjournment at 8:15pm