

**Garden Creek Elementary School**

**Fredericton, NB**

**Parent School Support Committee Minutes**

Date: March 28, 2017 Time: 6:30

Garden Creek Elementary Library

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| **PSSC Members Present:**  Mary Ellen Vaughan, Chair  Allan Lynch, Vice Chair  Sophia Petrovich, Secretary  **Others:**  Jackie Saunders  Jacqueline Fortner, Teacher Rep  Katina Roberts  Jane Matthews-Clark  Jodi Parker, Home& School Rep  **PSSC Members Regrets:**  Mark Taylor  Jason Addison  Michelle Peach  Tim Yerxa | **School/DEC Representation Present:**  Katherine Campbell, Principal  **School/DEC Representation Regrets:**  Stephanie Haslam, DEC  Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal |

**Call to Order**

**Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Al; Seconded by Jane; Motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Moved by Al; Seconded by Jane; Motion carried.

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

Outdoor Classroom discussion:

1. Possible funding through grant from Canada post, Katina will follow up.
2. Jacquie has had informal discussion with other teachers, quite a few are interested. It may be possible to have outdoor classroom specialists who swap classes with others who are not interested.
3. Important impacts on the school would include wellness and engagement.
4. Outside expertise to bring in could include:
   1. Community members, like Ian Smith at Mactaquac. Jane will contact him.
   2. UNB preschool
   3. Local forest schools
5. Follow up includes staff meeting/Core Leadership meetings to identify teachers who are interested, followed by finding parents with whom to coordinate.

**New Business**

Home and School hot lunch and student wellness:

We’d like to expand the hot lunch options to include local vendors and healthier options. Home and school requirements are less than $3.50 per entré. Possible vendors include: Milda’s Pizza, Locavore, Happy Baker, Ecole St. Anne, the Irving station on Bishop Drive Boathouse café, baked potato option, and sushi restaurants. Sophia will source possibilities and coordinate with Jody Yerxa at Home and School.

In the past, there have been problems with students being unresponsive to food that is new to them. In order to introduce children to some of the healthier options, we may try a pilot run of tasting different foods in the classrooms. Home and school would be able to help offset the cost. Also, the school is considering inviting Milda and other parents in the food industry to be involved with the end of year picnic.

**Report from Principal:**

1. PSSC Budget: funds from this year have been used for stationary and mugs. Katherine has used funds from next year to order urgently needed parking signage because we couldn’t get it in time to put it in this year’s budget.
2. The parent survey is complete. First the results will go to the teachers, then Katherine will send a memo summarizing the results to the parents. We will use go over the survey in more detail at the next meeting and use the information to help inform the 2-3 year plan. A quick preliminary review brought up the following:
   1. Parents want more connection with the school, more opportunities to visit and take part in classroom activities.
   2. We need more consistent reporting of curriculum and student results. Some teachers are excellent at communicating, others are not.
   3. Parents want faster learners to have more challenges.
3. Please see the What’s Happening at the Creek handout for details about current GC events.

**Correspondence:** None reported

**Closing Comments:** None

**Date of Next Meeting: April 25, 2017**

**Adjournment:**

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**PSSC Chair Date**

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**PSSC Secretary Date**