



**Garden Creek Elementary School**  
1360 Woodstock Rd, Fredericton, NB

**Parent School Support Committee Minutes**

November 29th, 2018 6:30pm  
Garden Creek Elementary Library

<p><b>PSSC Members Present:</b> Allan Lynch, Chair Mark Taylor, Vice Chair Andrea Addison, Secretary Hannah Steeves Carney, Home &amp; School Rep Pamela Kitchen, Kim Sorlie, Tim Yerxa</p> <p><b>Non-Member Regrets:</b> Lily Smallwood, Jodi Parker</p> <p><b>Member Regrets:</b> Peter Batt, Katie Cote, Jill Moore, Holly Pacey, Erin Smith</p>	<p><b>School/DEC Representation Present:</b> Katherine Campbell, Principal</p> <p><b>School/DEC Representation Regrets</b> Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal Jacqueline Fortner, Teacher Rep Stephanie Haslam, DEC Rep</p>
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**Call to Order:** 6:32pm

**Approval of Agenda:** motion for approval of agenda

1<sup>st</sup>: Hannah Steeves Carney; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mark Taylor

- all in favour, Agenda approved

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** motion for approval of minutes

1<sup>st</sup>: Tim Yerxa; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hannah Steeves Carney

- all in favour, Minutes approved

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Change in Noon Hour Schedule Update

- K-2 now come inside from noon hour recess 10 minutes early (12:30pm)
- positive results, students have time for lunch even on Chartwells hot lunch day
- one parent did approach school – preferred extra time for outdoor play, from anecdotal feedback more parents may dislike time change than may have been realized
- GCS has longest lunch recess (based on informal survey at Principal’s meeting)
- teacher driven solution, more time to eat for students better; duty teachers lose 10 minutes
- schedule could be reversed when winter is over, e.g. no snowpants/gloves/boots in spring
- leadership opportunity – grade 5 leadership students come in with early bell, help K-2’s get changed and open containers etc, get lunch started

## **Report from DEC Representative:** Stephanie Haslam, electronic report

- public meeting November 22<sup>nd</sup> looked at lack of student voice on DEC
- not filling student seat but considering teleconference prior to meeting
- covered leadership, new nutrition policy, access to consistent sex education, concerns re. difficulty obtaining credits needed for Immersion Certificate
- Symposium went well, good contacts with others from sub-districts, mental health presentation helpful and powerful, will discuss at next meeting

## **New Business:**

### PSSC Budget

- Budget of \$900, request for \$255 for GCS thank-you cards, use for invited speakers/presenting groups, parents, staff

Motion - for approval of \$250 from Budget to cover Thank-You cards

1<sup>st</sup>: Andrea Addison; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tim Yerxa

- all in favour, motion approved
- remainder of budget - possibly use towards a PSSC night for student presentation (discussed below under symposium)

### Parent Surveys

- 2 years since previous survey, redo survey with same questions, possibly add a few new
- previous questions generated by sub-committee, don't reuse questions data not useful from
- still working with information from last survey but good idea to get a new benchmark
- previous survey conducted in March, will do the same for consistency

### Symposium

- session at Symposium presented by students from James M. Hill HS in Miramichi following the death by suicide of a classmate
- students did research, e.g. Issue = mental health; Result = Suicide
- comprehensive research, staff psychologist, went to their own DEC with ideas
- revealed set ratio for school psychologist support is 1-230, reality is 1-508 leads to burnout, work overload, subpar salary and benefits – how to attract and retain more?
- solutions – put psychologists on salary for 12 months not 10, ASIST training (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills and Training) should be part of Education Degree curriculum, provide retroactive training for workforce, include teachers not just guidance
- strong positive response, want to get message out - Chris Treadwell (Assistant Deputy Minister of Education); John McLaughlin (Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development) attended, session should have been required for all attendees
- Rebecca Atkinson (Kingsclear Consolidated) – could we do a symposium debrief e.g. highlights, invite PSSC's to come view presentation
- could bring in George Street feeder schools, possibly hold at GSMS?
- Start with PSSC's but consider broader parent community – could be recorded for broader distribution if students willing
- possibly remote presentation (and record), also log in home computer to participate
- funding – possible budget remainder, could we use PSSC budget towards this?

## **Report from Principal**

### Professional Learning Update

- Successful blanket exercise around First Nations reconciliation, history and wrongs done
- 3-5's PLC's on writing standards, feedback to students on writing
- English to Immersion – invite teachers (December or January) to share approaches to teaching English to students in French Immersion
- Teachers working on mental fitness – what does it mean to be a resilient staff member, students can be at their best if teacher is also at their best
- First PL day back in January will be work on SIP

### Initiatives in the School

- Fluoride up and running
- Heritage Fair – 3 grade 5 classes participating, both French Immersion and Mr. Slacks class
- Hour of code next week for 3-5's, Mme. Robichaud and M. Levesque assisting
- Talent show this year will be more involved, last week February, 2 years ago was grades 3-5
- Multicultural meeting to begin working on Multicultural Fair
- Teachers from Dublin Ireland visited GCS today, look at inclusion policy, met with ESS teacher
- 'new' portable completed, intercom now working, good FM system
- grade 1-2 combined group will divide into Mr. Burnett's old upstairs room for math, room will also be utilized for flex groupings, EAL teacher
- NBCC building storage shed for outdoor equipment to use preferentially over classroom storage
- Discussion – Hannah – school celebrates Chinese New Year, however actually the Lunar New Year, for many not just Chinese, should reconsider terminology; lunch could be provided by Thai Manao
- Money donated to school following loss of parent from school community, how to use memorial money appropriately? Consult family, Katherine will investigate district policy

### Grade 4 and 5 Surveys

- Core leadership group discussed surveys, TTFM (tell them from me) now called "Our School"
- Discussed what extra questions to put on and work on SIP
- feedback - how does your teacher give you feedback? do students feel all teachers have the same expectations and rules (e.g. outside on playground)
- helpful to compare vs previous years

### New Staffing Grades 2 and 5

- Tricia McGraw is now teaching Grade 5 French Immersion (from grade 2 class)
- Nadine Martin new Grade 2 FI teacher, was at private school in early childhood education, has taught music
- Discussion – school has handled change well, teachers worked closely together, parent teacher meeting night was helpful
- Upcoming maternity leave for Grade 5 FI

### **Correspondence: N/A**

### **Closing comments**

- Tim will send Parent Survey questions from 2 years ago out to committee
- Spring Symposium in May – possibly GCS committee member attend, location to follow

- Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching – notice on board in hallway, Katherine will add to weekly memo

**Date of Next Meeting:** January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

**Adjournment: 7:56**