



## Garden Creek Elementary School Fredericton, NB

### Parent School Support Committee Minutes

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018      6:30pm  
Garden Creek Elementary Library

<p><b>2017-18 PSSC Members Present:</b> Allan Lynch, Chair Mark Taylor, Vice Chair Andrea Addison, Secretary Jacqueline Fortner, Teacher Rep.</p> <p>Lily Smallwood, H&amp;S Rep Erik deJong, Pam Kitchen, Sophia Petrovitch, Jackie Saunders, Erin Smith, Kim Sorlie, Tim Yerxa</p>	<p><b>School/DEC Representation Present:</b> Samantha Robichaud, Acting Principal Monica Doyle, Acting Vice Principal Stephanie Haslam, DEC Rep</p> <p><b>Regrets</b> Michelle Taylor, Angela Whitlock,</p>
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#### Call to Order: 6:33

#### Introduction of Monica Doyle, Acting Vice Principal:

Round table introductions

#### Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda: Erik deJong      Second: Mark Taylor

#### Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Motion to approve minutes from Nov.28<sup>th</sup>: Erik deJong      Seconded: Erin Smith

#### Business Arising from the Minutes:

##### Update on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting of DEC and PSSC Chairs

- Please see handout by Al Lynch for additional details, gathering of 10-11 PSSC chairs, elementary – high school level, open floor no agenda
- Discussion focus included inter-PSSC communication; ½ day PL days; PSSC role in terms of safety; Public Health Concerns, student death; PSSC budget priorities; Synervoice; Policy 120; school notification if schools are on DEC agenda; school sustainability studies; Spring Symposium May 4<sup>th</sup> weekend
- DEC chair to continue PSSC chair meetings twice a year

Discussion:

##### *Half day Professional Learning Days:*

- Consensus regarding low support for half day professional learning days, province wide policy
- Discussion around polling parents, possibly staff for input on pros and cons of ½ day PL
- Action Item – Samantha and Al will craft a doodle poll for Garden Creek parents

*Synervoices:*

- Telephone message system for mass messaging of parents paid for by district, coming to Garden Creek

*School Improvement Plan:*

- Possibly for 2018-2019 school year, PSSC member could participate in SIP development

*Policy 120:*

- DEC chair will pass Tim Yerxa's summary and feedback from discussion on to Superintendent; Stephanie Haslam will follow up
- Possibly removal of excessive language from policy may be helpful, application of the additional language is at issue

Update Outdoor Classroom and GC Garden – Jacqueline Fortner, Lily Smallwood

- Waiting for spring, waiting outcome on grant, possibly March or early April
- If no word about grant success, will begin simple inexpensive steps, plants seeds, etc

**New Business:**

Report from DEC rep - Stephanie Haslam

- DEC meeting February 22<sup>nd</sup>, very large turnout
- Voted to pass the sexual orientation and gender identities policy, will find out when policy will be publicly available
- Decision on Kingsclear Consolidated re-tabled until October, therefore school will remain open for the 2018-2019 school year
- DEC welcomed Allan Sabattis-Atwin, First Nations representative to the group

Home & School Hot Lunch Update – Lily Smallwood

- results from Chartwell's opinion poll fairly even; 40% in favour, 47% opposed
- Chartwell's will remain on Thursdays for the school year, work out bugs
- added Papa John's pizza lunch Tuesdays as pilot

**Report from Principal:** Samantha Robichaud

Input on First Nations Education in NB:

- where did results of survey go, discussion whether parents were appropriate target to ask for input, should look to specialists and community members
- First Nations co-ordinator is Kendra Broad, helped create team (NEAT) meet and discuss new initiatives, now determines spending of annual budget from Kingsclear Community
- This year budget allocated to tutoring, work with students but also staff, talking circle
- Ties into curriculum grade 3,4,5 social studies, goal of promoting connectivity

PSST World.com:

- Website where students can report unsafe situations in school or community anonymously
- Monitored during school hours by district and filtered to schools as necessary
- How to address misuse and false reports? middle and high school students mainly

Weather and Playground Activities:

- Weather too variable for school to have specific policy, triangulate reports from 3 networks
- If wind chill below -20 generally considered too cold but not an official policy

- If -15 or below may go outside only for part of recess, principal or duty teachers walk outside and personally assess

## **Student Survey Results / School Improvement Plan Update**

- For details please see SIP handout, Garden Creek 2017-2018

### Highlights:

#### **1. Student Survey Results**

- DIP for formative assessment very broad, so Garden Creek narrowed focus - giving feedback that is useful to students
- Grade 4 and 5 students online questions, e.g. “how often does teacher provide feedback?”
- **discussion** - some questions not worded simply enough but students can ask questions; student forums allow direct questions/discussion and provide better grassroots information (eg clubs formed etc)
- some PL days focus on positive feedback

#### **2. Engagement and Student Voice**

- Big change in 2017; working on different ways to allow students to represent their learning
- Providing students some choice is one way to increase connectedness in class

#### **3. Collective Efficacy**

- how teachers are working together
- mainly unchanged with the exception of providing teachers opportunity to watch each other teaching; creative staffing helps provide opportunities

### PLEWEP – Positive Learning and Working Environment Plan

- did not redo PSSC parent survey this year, but will give idea of success
- parents require regular communication, keep communication strong with teachers sending emails
- improvement seen in staff positive relationships – last year 29% reported low communication, this year 0%
- generally, District gives school their plan, then each school applies relevant specifics
- open to having PSSC representative help formulate plans

### **What’s happening at the Creek update** – please see Creek update for February 2018

- Yearbook club photos moved to March 20<sup>th</sup> to account for March Break related absences
- Book Fair April 10-14, encompass Parent Teacher April 12-14<sup>th</sup>
- UNB Hockey Game March 15<sup>th</sup>, grades 4 & 5

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

### **Closing Comments:**

Discussion of What’s Happening at the Creek Highlights, Bookfair, UNB hockey game

**Date of Next Meeting: March 27th , 2018; 6:30pm**

**Adjournment: 7:43pm**

