



Garden Creek Elementary School Fredericton, NB

Parent School Support Committee Minutes

March 27th, 2018 6:30pm

Garden Creek Elementary Library

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

Call to Order: 6:35

Approval of Agenda: to be completed at April 24th meeting

Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting: to be completed at April 24th meeting

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Parent poll PL days and response from district: next steps

- results 75% prefer full day approx., forwarded to Kimberley Douglas at DEC
- change to ½ PL day was made by province in line with education plan to have PL days provide more frequent collaboration and exchange
- district has undertaken initiative to explore the ‘delivery model of PL days’ via survey sent to all principals requesting feedback from staff and PSSC re ½ day
- questions regarding i) half day dismissal ii) what communication strategies are needed with parents for next year regarding PL days
- Al and Samantha will put together information from GC poll, attach parent comments, and summary of PSSC position

Discussion

- Communication to parents/families with respect to perception – what actually happens on PL days, these are **not** days off for teachers,
- PL day activities should be more transparent – what is done, and why (eg escape room activity)
- Differing dismissal times on ½ PL days lead to child care challenges, older (babysitting capable) students are dismissed after the elementary students, difficult to access inconsistently needed child care (wait lists at facilities, won’t take children for a few hours here and there)

- Resource use – not efficient to have buses, classes running on multiple separate partial days, environmental impact
- impact on educators (lesson planning, will classroom numbers be down), anecdotally teachers felt class numbers are down on ½ PL days – Samantha could run a report to check on this
- impact on student learning and attention (go out for recess, snack, get settled then day is over)
- ½ day near holidays break up school week even further, disrupt both classes and family time (eg week before Easter); planning ½ PL day timing should consider this
- Could ½ day PL be more useful at middle and high school level, Fredericton already has ½ day Wednesdays

Grant Updates: Outdoor classroom

- Lily – no news about grant success at this time, could be end of April
- Groups planting seeds for other city gardens are planting some extra for GC; plans for this year won't be impacted even if grant does not come available until May
- GC staff member attending “Seeds of Change” conference about school gardens
- Matt McGuire, (former Kingsclear teacher now PhD student at UNB examining ‘digital literacy in the school system’); interested in sharing tips and pointers regarding garden, also acquired grants
- Pam can put Lily in contact with Matt; may be some other grants available if bigger grant not successful

New Business:

Report from DEC rep - Stephanie Haslam

- DEC meeting was postponed due to weather, rescheduled for March 29th will report back to GC PSSC following
- Policy120 – appears to fall outside of DEC mandate, suggestion for principal to express concerns to Director of Education (Wayne Annis)
- Al to forward Tim Yerxa’s policy 120 summary to Wayne Annis
- At the PSSC chair meeting, restrictive nature of policy 120 was discussed
- Stephanie to follow up with Kimberley to see if the information was passed along to the district

Report from Principal: Samantha Robichaud

- Schools have been asked to launch School Cash Online payment system; GC will begin this with school clothing, can still send in cash
- Home and School may use it for pizza if successful
- Not completely cashless now, it’s just an option, not sure if in future it will go completely cashless, system has many benefits – security, receipts, not losing cash

What’s happening at the Creek update – please see Creek update for March 2018 for details

- Interns at school, drama up and running well, yearbook photos completed
- 11:30 dismissal also for April 24th and May 29th
- upcoming Parent-Teacher interviews
- new sports including catch catch hit, snowshoeing, a few plays (George St and Playhouse), sock hop fundraiser for Mr Slack’s class trip to Snider Mountain
- Book Fair approaching April 10th – 13th still looking for volunteers
- Pine Grove Nursing home partnership – monthly visits by Monica Doyle’s 4/5
- Grade 5 English students participating in Heritage Fair

Correspondence:

Spring Symposium: May 4th – 6th, Al's registration has been accepted

- PSSC members to learn about education system, breakout sessions; Mark Taylor went last year, will have report on that afterwards

Closing Comments:

N/A

Date of Next Meeting: April 24th, 2018; 6:30pm

Adjournment: 7:16