



Garden Creek Elementary School
1360 Woodstock Rd, Fredericton, NB

Parent School Support Committee Minutes

February 26th, 2019 6:30pm
Garden Creek Elementary Library

<p>PSSC Members Present: Allan Lynch, Chair Mark Taylor, Vice Chair Andrea Addison, Secretary Hannah Steeves Carney, Home & School Rep, Pamela Kitchen, Jill Moore, Kim Sorlie, Katie Coté, Tim Yerxa, Peter Batt,</p> <p>Non-Member Regrets: Lily Smallwood, Jodi Parker</p> <p>Member Regrets: Mark Taylor</p>	<p>School/DEC Representation Present: Katherine Campbell, Principal Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal Jacqueline Fortner, Teacher Rep Stephanie Haslam, DEC Rep</p> <p>School/DEC Representation Regrets</p>
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Call to Order: 6:31

Approval of Agenda: motion for approval of agenda

- 1st: Tim Yerxa; 2nd: Katie Cote
- all in favour, Agenda approved

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

- 1st: Kim Sorlie ; 2nd: Holly Pacey
- all in favour, Minutes approved

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Update PSSC Budget Spending:

May 2019 Symposium

- Mark Taylor’s name submitted for the May 2019 Symposium, if selected as sub-district rep his expenses will be covered by the district
- Draw for representatives is March 15th so we will have outcome by March 26th PSSC meeting
- If Mark is not selected we can decide if we will use 2019/2020 budget to cover his attendance

Other Budget Updates - Katherine

- Katherine spoke with teachers re: communication bags for classrooms – clear zipper \$3.29 each
- Current budget has \$661.97 remaining – options for purchasing bags include
 - 1) could purchase 201 bags for 2019/2020 with this year’s budget, then allocate \$335-350 from next fiscal year’s budget to cover the remaining ~102 bags

- 2) purchase 201 bags with current remaining budget, then use \$20 from each teacher's fall classroom fees to make up the difference and purchase the remaining bags

Discussion

- dilemma of one PSSC spending money from following committee's budget – what about other possible/unforeseen expenses?
- for e.g., sending a committee member to the Symposium is advantageous in connecting the PSSC to school community, may want money available for this, also other events such as funding parent information nights (though some may be provided by district)
- **solution:** use current remaining budget as a contribution towards purchasing as many communication bags as we can at this time, teachers contribute \$20 from student fees in fall
 - **unanimously agreed** - use remaining \$661.97 budget from 2018-2019 as contribution towards communication bags

Possible Internet Safety Presentation:

- Hannah spoke to RCMP contact, RCMP not able to present in city schools, must be city police
- Samantha spoke to Fredericton Police – they are the organization who would provide an internet safety presentation to the school, however don't have personnel to do one in current year
- Katherine emailed district – Jeff Whipple (head of tech) has done internet safety presentations to grade 5 students, see value in presenting to parents and would consider, happy to discuss more
 - Learned of school in Memphis who held parent screening of “Screenagers” followed by parent sessions with school leaders to discuss strategies
 - “Kids in the Know” Canadian Centre for Child Protection is well known, good program for teachers to integrate into daily teaching
 - www.screenagersmovie.com could take a look and consider using for a parent night in music room, classroom, gym
- next steps? Look at movie link and consider, follow up with district after March break
- One grade 5 class has already had presentation, others signed up
- Katherine will follow up with Jeff (and Carm), look into parent info
- Peter – FHS has done presentations both student driven and parent driven initiatives
- Sam Jingfors presented re social media, screen use and safety to whole district, PSST World

Parent Survey Timeline:

- Katherine and Tim will touch base re questions, possibly distribute end of March
- Review survey in April or May, May could be too late with respect to SIP
- Only need to change a few questions, could take back to core leadership – are parents feeling like students are receiving personalized learning that they need, how they feel about communication
- aim to send out last week of March, possibly week of 18th

Report from DEC Representative: Stephanie Haslam

- Student Voice – first meeting will be March 14th, orientation for participating students, one student from leadership at each school in district, meeting will be IT not in person
- Sustainability study – two bigger schools will be built for Forest Hill, Liverpool, McAdam Avenue, Nashwaaksis Memorial
- Stephanie is stepping down – one year sabbatical, someone will take over her position March 31st, she will attend March 26th meeting

Report from Principal

- David McTimoney will be returning as Superintendent starting August 1st after spending 2 years ‘feet on the ground’, getting in touch with schools as Principal
- 100th Day – February 27th – District will cover on website, write-up on Greener Village Food Challenge
 - CBC social media interested in story but wanted to combine with “snow days” issue
 - welcomed them to come and do a good news story of students giving back to community
 - instead just going with District website stories
- grade 1&2 present in gym on the 28th, ArtSmart program with Mrs. Fortner and Mrs. Cameron
- idea from discussion with parent to create self-sustaining fund for school with specific goal of big ticket items that parents could contribute to, get tax receipts for e.g. playground items, field drainage, could put on discussion for another meeting
 - other examples in district?, usually special fund with monetary target for specific goal
 - community grants, social media contests as routes to access donations
- Go-Go Gymnastics looking for temporary location from April to June – our school has many students who take part in their after-school programs
- Need to consult with Carole Plourde re gym, possibly using a classroom for K-2’s but generally outside, consider other factors
- nice to help out, short term, would pay for the space rental (to rental fund)
- would only be Garden Creek Students, not bringing in from other schools

Playground Renovation Information – Pea Gravel

- Playground – district estimates for pea gravel ~\$800 per truckload, needed to raise gravel to safe levels, could ask parents to help spread it with rakes, H&S to help with cost
- District suggested work in summer, but hoping to speed process up, possibly May

Update School Improvement Plan

- Personalized learning – goal is for teachers to learn more about it, discussion around choices teachers can give students and what their next steps will be
- Professional Learning in early January on this, followed up at staff meetings, read articles, PLC’s have met, discuss giving more choice in classrooms, flexible groupings in literacy or writing
- Self-Assessments by teachers to see how they feel about their learning, will be repeated
- Literacy and math results will be looked at via report cards
- Learning habits, does giving students more choice engage them more?
- Student Survey – to see if students understand their own goals, will be repeated later in year
- Parent Survey – do parents think their children are getting needs met at school

What’s Happening at the Creek Update:

- Please see “What’s Happening at the Creek” for details

Home and School:

- Pea Gravel funding
- Possibly a spring market of parents who have their own businesses – e.g. pottery, clothing
- Vendors pay fee for a table, possibly admission for attendees
- Could add raffle as not done at bazaar this year

Correspondence: N/A

Closing comments:

- Al will send link out to movie to whole PSSC

Action Items Arising from Meeting

- Action Communication Bags to be ordered with remaining \$661.97 from budget**
Action Katherine and Tim to review parent survey questions, possibly send out end March
Action Katherine to follow up with Jeff re possible future parent presentation
Action Al to send link to “Screenagers” to PSSC committee

Date of Next Meeting: March 26th, 2019

Adjournment: 7:10pm