



Garden Creek Elementary School
1360 Woodstock Rd, Fredericton, NB

Parent School Support Committee Minutes

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

<p>PSSC Members Present: Allan Lynch, Chair Mark Taylor, Vice Chair Andrea Addison, Secretary Pamela Kitchen, Jill Moore, Holly Pacey, Kim Sorlie</p> <p>Member Regrets: Hannah Steeves Carney, Home & School Rep Peter Batt, Katie Cote, Tim Yerxa</p>	<p>School/DEC Representation Present: Katherine Campbell, Principal Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal Stephanie Haslam, DEC Rep</p> <p>School/DEC Representation Regrets Jacqueline Fortner, Teacher Rep</p>
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Call to Order: 6:35

Approval of Agenda: motion for approval of agenda

1st: Kim Sorlie; 2nd: Andrea Addison

- all in favour, Agenda approved

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

1st: Mark Taylor; 2nd: Jill Moore

- all in favour, Minutes approved

Business Arising from the Minutes: budget Motion from February unanimous decision:

MOTION - for PSSC to approve spending remaining budget of \$661.97 from 2018-2019 on Communication Bags for the school as agreed upon in February meeting

1st – Holly Pacey; 2nd – Pam Kitchen

All in favour, Motion Approved

Parent Survey Update:

- survey has been distributed in regular memo, will send again as stand alone to increase participation
- core leadership group decided to keep most questions as is to have comparative baseline
- added one question re SIP – “are parents aware of child’s learning goals”?

- when completed staff, core leadership, PSSC will review results
- report cards will have added attachment to front of report encouraging parents to fill out learning goals together with their child

Possible Internet Safety Parent Presentation:

- parent who works with RCMP in social media presented to a GCS Grade 5 class
- Katherine attended Internet Safety presentation by Pat Campbell (guidance) at Barker's Point
Jeff Whipple from district also there, turnout not huge despite lots of advertising
 - directed at parents, covered appropriate screen time ages 0-up, controls available to limit what they watch, sexting (more of grade 6 level)
 - showed several videos, one was one that could be shown to grade 5's – drives home idea that if you send out a picture, everyone will see it
 - resulting discussions were very good, wake up call to some parents
- Pat is willing to come present to GCS parents, district will also provide support
- consensus – pencil Pat in at GCS – logistics? Library has nice atmosphere lots of space
- Jeff should be able to have suggestions, websites, possible handout
- Timing – could it happen in late April, early May – possibly April 30th? Too soon?
- Thursdays might be a good day, Tues/Wed often basketball in gym (background noise)
- Katherine – will check into coordinating both Pat and Jeff – try to schedule

Report from DEC Representative:

- Had student voice meeting with students across district – video with members of the DEC, get opinions on things working on, answer questions for them, meet every two months
- Heard about school in Hanwell- will be stated of the art, moveable walls for team teaching, special flooring, community partnering for e.g. jogging track, outdoor things
- Symposium coming up, names were drawn, Mark Taylor on waiting list
- Could send Mark using 2019-2020 budget if he does not make it off wait list
- Stephanie can send what it will cost to Al - \$174 registration plus room, ~\$200-300
- Next year's budget probably similar approx. \$800-900
- can go forward with that if we find that Mark does not make it off the waiting list

Report from Principal

SIP Update:

- Core leadership met, updated plan, discussed questions for parent survey, how to gather info from students on what they understand to be their goals
- goal to have professional learning around personalized learning – reading at last staff meeting – discussion around how our school is addressing NB global competencies
- PLC's continuing to meet
- Example in one classroom goal is more flexible grouping, more collaboration is happening between teams
- Will follow up when information returns from surveys and achievement reports

What's Happening at the Creek Update:

- Please see Memo for details
- update – GOGO gymnastics – not going to come here – related to permits to make switches not worthwhile to move
- Have some new clubs – encourage interns take on clubs as provides more personalized learning
 - art club, recycling club, metal smith club (school providing some money for this),

- recycling K-2 – 57 students, metal smith 3-5, Burnett starting road hockey outside
- New idea for Interest groups similar to middle school SPARK – Katherine brought idea up to staff, 5 or 6 weeks, once a week staff would teach something different to students based on student interests
 - tie into curriculum, social studies, giving back component - eg making cards took to nursing home, eg SPCA animal groups, donations, - idea up to staff, find staff interested working on a committee - would run May into June
- Talent Show - June
- NBCC –coming to volunteer May 1st (thanks to Jill M.), what do we need help with?
 - Home and School suggested upgrade Kitchen, shelter needs repairs, student suggested upgrade bathroom décor, many possibilities
- Tidal Impact – 500 youth come into city in the summer, religious based group but here to volunteer, work in different schools, could do things like clearing trail, clearing bush on playground
- MIRA Consturction company to donate pea gravel to school - Julie Werner was sourcing pea gravel and they offered to donate it – can now put money for something else
- Valley Ridge donated a couch for main office – would be nice to update office for Theresa Ghanem

Home and School:

- N/A

Correspondence: N/A

New Business:

JMH High School Video on student mental health:

- Video presentation

Discussion of Video :

How can PSSC parents of GC support the student recommendations at GC?

How can PSSC support the student recommendations on a wider scale with other PSSC's?

Disussion:

- Excellent presentation, although does not focus on elementary level
- Even at elementary level, need more psychologists for staff to be able to do their job with students as wait lists are so long, and require appropriate matching for treatment vs diagnosis
- GCS fortunate to have excellent guidance counselor, present 4/5 days per week
- Integrated Services Deliver (ISD) model depends on school teams, at GCS the Educational Support Services (ESS) team meets weekly, ISD liaison comes to half of meeting to discuss pertinent cases and return back to ISD team, however do lack psychologist who can get things done quickly
- Need to reach both parents and students now at elementary level – students with mental health issues in elementary school move on to middle school and issues can be magnified
 - students identified in elementary school and information is passed to middle schools
- this issue may be one to bring to a future meeting with feeder school PSSC's, put ideas forward to ISD, Dept of Health
- video identified many issues in system, psychologists trained here leaving the province of NB due to salary, job availability – while psychologists are considered 'gold standard', not all psychologists have mental health as their specialty, overlooking that other health care workers could be utilized, e.g. social workers can do similar work

- Is there more to the story, beyond increasing number of psychologists how can we help
- Guidance counselors overwhelmed, mental health on corner of desk, don't always have training
- While increasing psychologist numbers would be ideal, might not be something that PSSC can effect change in
- ASIST Training –Applied Suicide Intervention Skills – modeled for average teacher or staff – aids in identification – and first aid for mental health – helps teachers recognize signals – what to watch for and suicide prevention
- ASIST training helps in terms that most students don't go to a guidance counselor and verbalize that they are considering suicide, training allows staff to recognize subtle nuanced changes in behavior – very practical
- is this something that PSSC could move forward? Promote training staff in schools?
- PSSC may not be able to achieve increased salaries and psychologist retention, but may be able to influence having more 'eyes on the floor' in terms of trained personnel
- Funding? Guidance counselors funded for ASIST training but other staff not covered
- ~\$200 for 2 day workshop – could we have training done on site similar to CPR – First Aid?
- JMH video – aim to have ASIST training integrated as part of teacher education
- Schools do conduct Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, set up with pockets of trained staff in schools, not every staff member – ASIST type training could be modeled after this
- An ASIST trained staff could be resource to other teachers with concerns over specific students
- Increasing psychologist salaries, and numbers of psychologists requires political pressure, MLA, advocate to Minister of Education
- PSSC can give it some thought as a group – think about it strategically – can we lobby to get it ASSIST integrated into education program? Have more staff trained? EA's?
- Dean of Education new this year, came to last meeting with administrators to talk about leadership options etc, seemed open to ideas – would welcome a meeting to come speak with us – at UNB STU
- Can we share the JMH video on social media? Check with Stacey at the DEC – video will be shared at Spring Symposium, on HS website project called ETC “End the Stigma”
- would make sense that PSSC share with other PSSC's – valuable resource to watch, add to an agenda, Connaught St, George, Preistman
- what other resources are available? If ASIST Training is identifying students where do they get help if the government isn't hiring more psychologists and counselors, important to identify other resources available
 - e.g. if a parent goes to a teacher with concern, does the teacher have resources and can they give parent direction to help from community?
 - Parents may assume that schools have resources, package, pamphlet?
- Consider a presentation on ISD model, and within that what programs are available to parents to access – maybe one of the steps is making parents aware of what services are available for mental health, could be brought to ESS agenda
- Question – can school send out the JMH Video to the school community? What are the boundaries?
 - Need to be careful to get the message out while the school not overstepping boundaries – this is where PSSC comes into play – a neutral group not the school itself
 - The video is public on YouTube, message about awareness is important
 - Katherine will look into sharing the video link on the GCS website or FaceBook page

Closing comments:

- N/A

Action Items Arising from Meeting

Action Katherine to contact Pat Campbell and Jeff Whipple for possible parent presentation

Date of Next Meeting: April 23rd, 2019

Adjournment: 8:29