



Garden Creek Elementary School 1360 Woodstock Rd, Fredericton, NB

Parent School Support Committee Minutes September 29, 2020 6:30pm Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

PSSC Members Present: Mark Taylor: Chair Katie Côté: Vice Chair Pamela Kitchen, Jill Moore, Kim Sorlie, Tim Yerxa	School/DEC Representation Present: Katherine Campbell, Principal Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal Meredith Briden, Teacher Rep
Member Regrets: Secretary: Vacant Home and School Rep: Vacant	School/DEC Representation Regrets: Laura O'Brien, DEC Rep

Call to Order: 6:30

Approval of Agenda

Motion for approval of agenda:

- 1st: Katie Côté 2nd: Kim Sorlie
- all in favor, agenda approved

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

- 1st: Kim Sorlie 2nd: Pamela Kitchen
- all in favor, minutes approved

Election of PSSC Members:

2020-2021 PSSC Executive:

Chair: Mark Taylor

Vice Chair: Katie Côté

Secretary: Vacant

Home and School Rep: Vacant

Principal: Katherine Campbell

Vice Principal: Samantha Robichaud

Teacher Rep: Meredith Briden

2020-21 PSSC Returning Members:

Pamela Kitchen
Jill Moore
Kim Sorlie
Tim Yerxa

Pamela Kitchen and Kim Sorlie have reapplied for another 3 year term with the PSSC. All in favor, motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

PSSC Budget:

- Request for \$907 to be used to facilitate the purchase of an improved SeeSaw platform to support distance learning and communications to home.

Motion to use PSSC budget for improved SeeSaw platform put forward by Kim Sorlie and seconded by Pamela Kitchen

All in favor, consensus reached, motion approved

Report from DEC Representative:

- No report was provided

Principal's Report:

- 2020-21 Enrollment numbers: 313 students, 114 in English and 199 in French Immersion
- 20 classrooms in use to accommodate the smaller class size for k-2 (up to 15)
- Library in use in use for a classroom, remainder is in use for office space and storage
- Music is being offered in house by Andrea Dias for grades 3 to 5 and K to 2 rotates virtually, Ms. Dias attends one class and the other classes join through MS Teams
- Phys Ed still a go, mainly outdoors. Waiting on a curtain for double phys-ed delivery, currently using mats to divide the gym until it is installed.
- Dismissal and Entry faster and smoother, announcements earlier
- Playground calmer with the zones. Helps with locating students as well. Going well. Teachers take their students to the zone and bring them back to the school. To be reassessed when winter arrives.
- Home and School has provided the playground with more equipment and bins.
- Positive parent comments on direct entry into school. Additional supervision for students.
- Expedition of water bottle fountains upgrades are a silver lining with Covid, all but one have been upgraded.
- Water bottles donated by Jim Gilbert for children who forget their water bottles.

- Students and teachers are settling into routines. Assessments in progress and students already working in centers
- Outdoor learning starting to build and students have been learning in the garden.
- A grant has been submitted to support more outdoor learning, and Alex McLeod putting together kits for outdoor learning. Grant to be decided mid October
- Changes to curriculum, far more compact K-2 more focussed on literacy and numeracy and exploration time. Same type of play-based learning and more focus on social and emotional learning as well as outdoor learning.
- Grades 3 to 5 build on the above and incorporate science and integrated learning. The 3-5's worked on passion projects last year
- Lots of prof learning for teachers over the summer and going forward and networking opportunities
- PLCs starting to meet. Mainly reforming, setting norms and goals
- Seesaw has been purchased as it works well for all stakeholders to make virtual learning and communications seamless. Roughly 2300 required for licensing. District gave different platform options 3-5, Freshgrade and MSTeams were also offered but Seesaw was a better fit. SeeSaw has Canadian platform and datacenter complying with government standards.
- Weekly memo continuing from the principal as well as teacher memos
- Trying to focus on academics, clubs may not be running but students are still busy.
- Looking at doing Remembrance Day and Christmas concert virtually. Microsoft Teams Live Event suggested as potential delivery mechanism.

Questions from the Committee

What preparations are being made in the event of another shut down?

- Following the operational plan K-2 will be paper form. Teachers would create packages to send home. 3-5 is supposed to be a combination of paper and virtual. Staff will be kept in house as long as possible if the students are sent home. SeeSaw has additional functionalities that the old version didn't have.
- The directive received from the department is to go back to parents if they have what they need for virtual learning. Survey to be sent home shortly
- Teachers are able to plan with another grade level platform

What is being done for children following the protocol and out of school for an extended period of time factoring in wait times for testing and recovery?

- If children are home following the protocol SeeSaw could be used as a method of supporting learning at home during that period. The teachers have only had SeeSaw for 2 weeks and only one PL has taken place. Some are still familiarizing themselves with the system. Working towards being able to send homework for symptomatic children at home.
- Idea of a dry run for Microsoft Teams while the covid risk is low to familiarize with they system.
- Potential Survey: During the Covid shutdown what worked well?, what didn't?, and suggestion based format. Parent volunteer subcommittee Kim Sorlie and Pamela Kitchen formed to further investigate.

Correspondence:

N/A

Closing Comments:

Mark thanked the group for their attendance

Date of Next Meeting:

October 27th 6:30 pm GC on Microsoft Teams

Adjournment: 7:45