

**Garden Creek Elementary School**

Fredericton, NB

**Parent School Support Committee Minutes**

November 28th, 2017 6:30pm

Garden Creek Elementary Library

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

**Call to Order: 6:32**

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting(s):**

Motion to approve minutes from Sept 26: Erik deJong Seconded: Angela Whitlock

Motion to approve minutes from Oct 24: Tim Yerxa Seconded: Erik deJong

**UNB Nursing Students Presentation:** nurses unavailable

**Report from DEC Rep:**

* DEC public meeting in Woodstock was the 16th of November
* Discussed short and long term goals including governance
* Policy overhaul in progress, streamlining by combining of policies (e.g. potato harvest, and quality high school policies) to avoid unnecessary duplication
* Terry Pond put forward motion for student representation on the DEC, Stephanie will update PSSC as this unfolds, challenges include large size of district
* Policy for sexual orientation and gender identification – at least one other board has created such a policy, the DEC will be examining the issue further in the future
* May 4-6th Spring Symposium - in Fredericton, no topics yet, anyone interested contact Stacey Brown the DEC co-ordinator by February
* Parenting in a Digital Age – principals to have copies by December 1st
* January 18th – DEC collaboration meeting. Kimberley Douglas (DEC chair) will meet with PSSC chairs from across the district to open communication between DEC’s ad PSSC’s

**Discussion –** policy on classroom inclusion - question of how classrooms are able to provide balance of education for all learning abilities in class, what guidelines exist that determine inclusion (Policy 322), balance of language emphasis

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Update Fluoride Mouth Rinse Program – Katherine - begins November 29th; 175 enrolled

* grade 1-5 not K so they don’t swallow; volunteers trained November 22nd

Update on District Policy 120 – please see Tim Yerxa’s handout from November 28th

* District policy states adherence to provincial policy, brochure follows provincial until Section F
* Section F - district guideline brochure contains added language not in the Policy:
* Additional language: “**such as, club or rec sports, camps, private clubs or activities (drama music art etc), fee charging community events, child care, business or commercial promotions, events sponsored by religious affiliations or institutes”**
* is the addition of the language in the districts brochure, reflective of the intent of the provincial policy; can we achieve student parent community communication with a positive outcome
* Stephanie can bring up at DEC (was discussed last year)
* **General consensus**: parents miss receiving information about camps, courses, art shows, culture
* Address questions with other PSSC’s – do other schools also feel disconnected from community? Does this policy serve students, families and communities well? Is a school a community based organization in this context? Does protection of students from being advertised to come at the expense of potentially beneficial information sharing?
* Can district re-evaluate the application of the policy, what is role of school in community of families, can we offer suggestions to aide decision making e.g. science camp vs pizza coupons?
* Possible solutions – once a term put out a circular, or pay to participate (revenue potential), flow chart or clear “boxes” to be checked to easily lay out a decision making process for inclusion vs exclusion from communication, letter to district show multiple schools who share viewpoint
* Tim – will continue to move forward, work on a letter or suggestions
* Al – discuss issue and questions at January 18th PSSC group meeting

Update Grants for GC garden – update from Lily and Jacqueline

* Application to Environmental Trust Fund submitted Nov 28th with letters of support from Katherine Campbell and Jodi Parker (Home & School)
* Proposal seeks funding to build garden, construction, maintenance taken care of externally
* incorporate into class curriculums, participate in planting, tending garden, summer blog, fall Harvest Celebration, partnerships with other schools, field trips to other gardens, leadership (Garden Creek Garden Club)
* Report back in March April re funding outcome and amount, hope install garden beds May/June 2018

Update Outdoor Classroom **–** update from Jacqueline Fortner

* Area out back behind library, access to creek, GC garden
* Exploring cost to build large wooden stage, could seat 2-3 classes, working on plans with a contact through Alex McLeod

Update PSSC collaboration other schools **–** update fromAl Lynch

* Spoke to Dave Bowen (GSMS chair), regarding feeder school PSSC chairs meeting to share ideas, discuss policy 120, create larger voice to take common issues to district
* January 18th meeting will be a good place to make initial contacts with other PSSC chairs and discuss possible additional meeting(s)
* Begin with small group, just the chairs, then add more participants as things go forward

Update Soccer Net Funding –

Katherine – Carole Plourde has begun work on grant proposal, will update as things progress

Update PSSC Budget Priorities **–** Paper use and sign modification

Motion: for spending budget on paper – Sophia Second – Angela

Motion: to change sign in parking lot – Kim Second – Lily

**New Business:**

**Report from Principal – Katherine Campbell**

**1 . Principal’s Forum –November 7th**–

* Met with 3-5’s then K-2’s at recess, once a term or more frequently
* Feedback for insight into where are students coming from

Question 1 - What areas in school do you feel we need more supervision?

**K-2’s** – circulate around equipment more, portable, down by the forest, students climbing, down by forest, fence (student’s climbing)

**3-5 –** soccer field (snow soccer with Mr. Burnett plus regular soccer), in the woods, by the fence, by the parking lot, watch students at top of hill aren’t chasing balls down

* Question – can students be allowed to play in forest – not possible safety wise, students need to be visible to staff, but possibly opportunities will come up with outdoor learning or individual classes; plant trees in future (help with water issues?)

Question 2 - What equipment would you like to see inside or outside?

**K-2’s -** more play structures, underground tunnel, more basketballs and soccer balls (need specific balls to use for different purposes), monkey bars, murals of characters (Meredith Bryden planning mural outside music room), seesaw, climbing wall (gym), tree house, badminton nets, baseball set up on lower field, 3-5 slides,

**3-5** – zip line, soccer nets older kids, older kids play structure,

Question 3 – how can teachers help you know what you need to work on?

**K-2** – tutor after school (elf program)

**3-5** – extra help recess or lunch, more small group help

Question 4 – what activities would you like to see happen in our school?

**K-2** – art class, flag football, board games (EA volunteered), chess club (Levesque)

**3-5** – Friday fun day, more field trips (museum), field day (like k-2), board games, drawing, comics, yoga, student led club, cheerleading, flag football, talent show

**2. Grade 2 Provincial Assessment Results – percentage of students passing or meeting expectation**

* reading comprehension – Garden Creek results –82% (district was 72%, province at 74%)
* take results to teachers, core leadership to compare results to past, explore future direction
* discussion: vertical flexible learning – definitely working towards personalized learning

**3. School Improvement Plan Update – 3 goals**

**1 - Students as assessment capable learners** –working on giving feedback to students – e.g. literacy – writing grade levels will meet in PLC’s

* Session in January – how we give feedback to students – goal setting, track meetings with students – charts up on board with goals, increase student understanding of where they are

**2 - Student voice** – giving more choice, ownership for learning in class

* how to engage students, ownership in classroom, PL in January will work with staff on student voice, centers provide more choices, student leadership – eg grade 5’s involvement in activities

**3 - Collective Efficacy**  – staff work together with data to move students forward – flexible grouping, where does data say we can group students together, what are strengths, PLC time to go into other classes to observe

PLEWEP – Positive Learning and Working Environment Plan – students and staff

**Students** – goal of connectedness – assist each student identify an adult they connect to in the school school survey: “who on staff do you feel you can go to if you need help”; provide students a picture of the staff, ask to circle trusted adult

**Connection with parents via:** seesaw, weekly parent communication, ongoing school updates, cultural responsiveness, help students feel connected

* Possibly update parent survey – a question to add is “who does your child feel they can go do”?

**Staff –** positive working environment

* September district came to discuss– emotional safety, plan to send out survey to staff; continue to work on staff wellness, helping and supporting each other

**4. Update on Acting Principal position**

* competition closed November 24, interviews will be end of week, Al will sit in from PSSC

**5. What’s happening at the Creek update –** please see Creek update for November 2017

**Correspondence:**

**N/A**

**Closing Comments:**

Al – proposed PSSC meeting in December – Katherine’s last opportunity to update, possibly meet new admin team; suggested December 19th

Parent Perception Survey – possibly re-doing parent survey from last year (Tim has survey monkey)?

- Possibly add new elements, parent perceptions around things such as fund raising, check in with Home and School; Abbreviated version would be a good update – shorter, pinpoint,

- possibly re-visit at next meeting or in January

**Date of Next Meeting:**

**December 19th at 6:30**

**Adjournment:** 8:02pm