

Garden Creek School
1360 Woodstock Road, Fredericton NB

Parent School Support Committee Minutes

November 24, 2020 6:30pm
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

<p>PSSC Members Present: Mark Taylor: Chair Katie Cote: Vice Chair Holly Pacey, Jill Moor, Kim Sorlie Carol Shuai, Pamela Kitchen Home and School Rep: Lily Smallwood</p> <p>Member Regrets: Secretary: Vacant</p>	<p>School/DEC Representation Present: Katherine Campbell, Principal Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal Catherine Elvin, Teacher Rep (?) Laura O'Brien, DEC Rep</p> <p>Andrea Addison, Community Rep</p>
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Call to Order: 6:30pm

Approval of minutes:

1st – Holly Pacey 2nd- Katie Cote
All in favour; minutes approved

Approval of agenda:

1st – Katie Cote 2nd – Catherine Elvin
All in favour, minutes approved

New business arising from agenda:

Issue(s) with the school grounds and field as we go into colder weather:

- The fields get soaked in the spring and are a mess in the winter
- When it rains, the students cannot play on the fields
- There has been work done on them in the past
- Discussion around repairing the grounds began most recently in 2017
- A drain was put in seven years ago but it doesn't drain property; a newer one has been put in that leads to the river but there are still some issues
- There is a \$25, 000 estimated cost to fix the drainage problem
- A request has been put in to Facilities at District
- There has also been a request for a meeting because it is a safety issue for the students and teachers
- It isn't totally clear who has jurisdiction over the land itself – is it the City? The Province? Could this be considered a capital improvement project?
- Perhaps there could be more movement if the Province is involved?

- Further focus on outdoor classrooms and the need for them might help get this issue resolved
- If the school is not going to close (due to the pandemic) then these amenities are even more crucial
- Can parents push this issue to help move things along, via the PSSC? How can the parents be of further assistance? Contact the Minister, who is also this area's MLA? Can the City push Park Development?
- Conversation around a subcommittee aimed at helping with this challenge
 - o Katherine could get details about exactly who owns the land (step one), and PSSC could provide a letter with whatever direction makes the best sense on how to address it (step two)
 - o Could Laura take it to district? Mark can provide a contact with the City
 - o Final decision: Start with determining the land situation, then form an email chain once we know who owns it

Report from Principal:

Core leadership:

- Group met last week; involves six staff, discussing bigger school improvement ideas
- Dec. 1 – Social emotional learning
- Dec. 3 – Digital learning
- Dec. 4 – Personalized learning
- January 6th and April 14th – resilience

Report cards:

- Are going home at the end of the day tomorrow (Nov. 25)
- More anecdotal “exploratory” is a global type of learning
- Students are still being marked on literacy and numeracy
- Learning habits

COVID:

- There is extra signage around the school to remind staff that if they are working with another student outside their bubble they need to sanitize
- Custodians are doing extra sanitizing on the hand railings
- Students are sanitizing in the classroom
- Christmas concert prep
- Orange Phase: reminding through announcements about sanitizing and mask wearing
 - o Questions arising from this – any teachers travelling for work from that zone? (If staff have been to an Orange zone, there are strict guidelines for them to follow)

Online learning platform for snow days?

- If we go into the Red Phase, we will need to make the transition to online learning within 24 hours
- Idea of virtual learning on snow days brought up to Dominic Cardy in meeting and it wasn't on the agenda at that time
- Items might go up on Seesaw since it is already in place as a tool at Garden Creek

- Seesaw could be used as a 'dry run' to see if it can be used during a snow day
- There is a collective agreement, so using an online tool on a snow day might be contingent on/restricted by that

Home and School Fundraising:

- Chapters fundraiser happening this week
- \$500 from Scholastic Book Fair last week
- Silent Auction and basket items are starting to come in

Other items:

- Recess time: 5 minutes were added after they were initially removed because it was too challenging to navigate with the time constraint
- Recess zones are smaller because of the flooding
- Grant for bilingual learning for \$900
- K-2s are getting an iPad through their grant
- Outdoor learning space is getting more benches and stumps

DEC Report:

- There is interest from other PSSCs regarding the virtual PSSC training
 - o When and what that will look like is TBD
- Curriculum presentation on digital library resource
 - o 2200 unique users before digital PL day
 - o Update on that resource usage forthcoming
- One year bridging plan – social/emotional and digital learning
- Seven nominations for Minister's Award, going to three individuals
 - o Next round will be in about a year from now
- Policy 409 – School studies (Burton school)
 - o Due to the need for a public meeting on school closures, this has been delayed
- Budget update: \$378,000 surplus rolled into this year's budget
 - o Balanced budget projected for this year

*School field issue(s) brought to Laura – explanation about drainage problem and questions around land ownership, resulting in questions around who is responsible for fixing the issues

- Laura said she will look into it, find out and report back

Items for Discussion:

Crosswalk and associated risks/challenges/solutions regarding people speeding down Golf Club Road:

- City is maxed out for crossing guards
- Funding request goes through Fredericton Police then goes from there
- Claude Chouinard was the contact for this
- He wanted to know concrete numbers on how many students cross there every day and was planning to come at 7:45 am until 8:15 am to get a head count
- He requires numbers to move forward so the plan is to start with his site visit and then go from there

- Questions and ideas expressed:
 - Could we send out a survey to parents- if there was an extra crossing guard or flashing lights, would you let your child walk to school? How many are currently using it vs. how many actually would?
 - What about a sidewalk?
 - Crossing guard award should go to Anne
 - Flashing lights at the corner of Woodstock and Golf Club Road would be helpful
 - Police presence isn't common in that area to help prevent people from speeding (the purpose of their presence would be for people to be mindful and aware of the crosswalk area)
- Something needs to be done to address this, as it is a safety concern

Closing comments:

- Members thanked for their attendance
- Happy holidays
- Next meeting date set
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Date of next meeting:

January 26th @ 6:30pm

Adjournment: 7:45 pm