



Garden Creek Elementary School 1360 Woodstock Rd, Fredericton, NB

Parent School Support Committee Minutes February 23, 2021 6:30pm Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

PSSC Members Present: Mark Taylor: Chair Katie Côté: Vice Chair Pamela Kitchen, Tim Yerxa, Coral Shuai, Holly Goodwin Pacey, Jill Moore, Lily Smallwood (Home and School Rep) Regrets: Kim Sorlie	School/DEC Representation Present: Katherine Campbell, Principal Catherine Sypher, Guidance Community Rep: Andrea Addison School/DEC Representation:
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Call to Order: 6:30pm

Approval of Agenda

Motion for approval of agenda:

- 1st: Katie Cote 2nd: Coral Shuai
- all in favor, agenda approved

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

- 1st: Andrea Addison 2nd: Katie Cote
- all in favor, minutes approved

Business arising from the minutes:

- Field Update:
 - Andrea agreed to take the lead on next steps, including contacting the Engineering firm CBCL and arranging a site visit. Katherine Campbell will need to be present for the site visit and possibly Nadine (Garden Creek Facilities Manager) as well.
 - Katherine will get clarity from the district as to whether the land belongs to the district, city or school. Andrea and Mark will reach out to their respective contacts in this regard if need be.

- Home and School Update:
 - Lily gave PSSC an update about Home and School committee activities including a playground plan. The committee is in a holding pattern until it knows more about the state of the field and its drainage issues. Once resolved, the committee would like to carry out a large-scale fundraising plan for the playground area. In the meantime, the committee will continue to make repairs to small areas like the basketball pavement when feasible
- Parent Perception Survey:
 - Katherine asked the PSSC committee whether they saw value in sending out a parent perception survey this year. The last parent perception survey was sent out in March 2017.

Motion for approval to send out a parent perception survey this year

1st: Andrea Addison 2nd: Katie Cote

 - all in favor, motion approved
 - Tim will send Katherine the link to the 2017 survey so she/team may look over the questions and determine which ones the school may want to add or discard. Modifying a question (changing wording) was discouraged in the meeting, because new data would not then be comparable against 2017 benchmark data.
 - PSSC committee will work with Katherine to ensure survey goes out to parents.
- Crosswalk Update:
 - Andrea gave a quick update on the crosswalk developments. It was noted by the person who visited the site that not many students cross there. Andrea may investigate further.

Principal's Report:

Professional Learning:

- Grade 3-5 teachers had training on Office 365 and learned many tools to apply to learning.
- All teachers received professional learning on using bookings for the coming parent teacher interviews
- Professional learning was delivered on the topic of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification, most notably around the idea that we will not tolerate any biases in regard to gender identification and will attempt to use gender neutral language (instead of boys and girls use students, friends etc.)
- Based on some professional learning a few staff did (inventory and next step) we will be working on a new initiative around French Immersion and our practices.
- Teachers will receive professional learning on self-awareness. This is coming up on the 21st of March
- EAs will receive professional learning on First Aid on March 19th

Social Emotional Learning:

- We are focusing on Positive Post, Five Finger Affirmations and "Try, Try Again". Students seem eager to learn and share.

Grants:

- Emily Greenwell received a grant to work on waste reduction
- Meredith and Sara picking up steam on their bilingual learning grant and the mural – info and canvases being purchased.
- Music teacher is looking into a grant so that we can buy a class set of ukuleles but need help from a grant writer

Personalized Learning Mid-term reporting:

- Many teachers have sent out mid-term reports to parents to keep them updated on their child's progress. This is also in response to a survey we did a while back about parents wanting to be more frequently informed as to their child's progress

Outdoor learning:

- Three classes have met three times online with a consultant around building an outdoor structure.
- Lily – going to tap some trees

Presentations:

- Had First Nations Storytelling, Black History Month, SPCA and now Science East going virtual

PenPal:

- Grade 4 English is going to be part of penpal writing with retired teachers

Surveys:

- No teacher perception survey this year, but we will have a grade 4 and 5 student survey in April

Questions?

N/A

Correspondence:

N/A

Closing Comments:

Katherine thanked the PSSC committee for their participation.

Date of Next Meeting:

March 30th, 2021 at 6:30pm on Microsoft Teams

Adjournment: 7:58pm