



Garden Creek Elementary School
1360 Woodstock Rd, Fredericton, NB

Parent School Support Committee Minutes
October 22, 2019 6:30pm
Garden Creek Elementary Library

PSSC Members Present:

Mark Taylor, Chair
Andrea Addison, Vice Chair
Katie Côté, Secretary
Hannah Steeves Carney, Home & School Rep
Pamela Kitchen, Holly Pacey, Amy White, Tim Yerxa

Member Regrets: Lily Smallwood, Kim Sorlie

School/DEC Representation Present:

Katherine Campbell, Principal
Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal
Jacqueline Fortner, Teacher Rep

School/DEC Representation Regrets:

Laura O'Brien, DEC Rep

Call to Order: 6:27

Approval of Agenda

Motion for approval of agenda:

- 1st: Tim Yerxa 2nd: Hannah Steeves Carney
- all in favour, Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

- 1st: Pamela Kitchen 2nd: Holly Pacey
- all in favour,

Business arising from the minutes:

- Digital report cards were investigated but the technology is not there at this time.
- Wellness night was a success.

Boomerang Lunches Subcommittee Report:

Subcommittee created and kick off meeting took place October , 2019:

- Mrs Ross to talk about her efforts in applying for Garden Creek [EcoSchools](#) to be certified
- Group discussions on what a litter less lunch could mean. Boomerang lunches, where students bring home their garbage and recyclables successful in Ontario.
- Volume of garbage, including blue box recyclables discussed. There is no pick up for blue box items currently for schools in Fredericton.
- Brainstorming with student to take place in classrooms to make this initiative student driven. Students asked to provide feedback on how they can reduce waste within their classrooms.
- Some classes are tracking the accumulation of garbage through the day and others day to day to visualize the volume of waste.
- Subcommittee to meet again October 30 at 6:30.

Report from DEC Representative:

N/A

New Business:

Discussion on EECD's [green paper](#) on reforms to the education system:

- Possible change in PSSC involvement drowned out at DEC level and further reduced at the department level.
- Phasing out of age-based grades
 - Little communication from EECD to the school at this time.
 - Similar to the Montessori approach with age chunks. PSSC to possibly reach out to [Bluebelle Montessori](#) educator to learn more about this approach.
 - Presents the benefit of meeting students where they are.
 - Caution that it is a slow process.
 - PSSC to reach out to [Keswick Ridge Elementary](#) that successfully implements this model, however French Immersion is not offered at this school.
 - Green paper unclear on what this means for French Immersion.
 - Roll out needs to be within the right parameters.
 - Needs to be based on sound practice.
 - PL work to improve communication to make these merged classes work.
 - More discussion needed.
- Positive conversation around who can contribute schools and breaking down existing barriers.

Report from Principal:

EcoSchools:

- Garden Creek has received [EcoSchools](#) approval.
- A special thanks to Mrs. Ross for taking this on.
- This translates to funding and support, lesson plans.
- Networking available through PSSC member regarding Toronto's experience with [EcoSchools](#).

Grade 4 Assessment Results:

- Drill down into the results not yet available.
- Above provincial average in French reading, science and math.
- English reading below provincial and ASDW targets.
- French Immersion and English done for English reading.
- Influx of children where English is a second language possible? If children didn't write the evaluation they count as zero.
- Should be repeated this year. Supposed to be aiming for 90%. Results not available for previous years.
- Results to be discussed with the staff.

Personalized Learning:

- November Wednesday our Personal Learning lead in the district will work with teachers for 1.5 hours. Weed out strengths, what strategies are successful, what needs are, more collaborative work in school.

Core Leadership:

- Met with district about provincial framework.
- Meeting as a team to dig further and look at school indicators around best practice and where we would like to improve.
- Looking at data at end of November. Digging further into plans, how can data move the students forward.

Communications to Home:

- Interim checklists being sent home to several grades. More valuable in Nov-April span between report cards.
- Acknowledging parents/guardians' requests for more feedback.
- No standard format. Completely volunteered by the staff.
- Positive feedback around Friday folders.
- Checklist distributed to staff for inventory of communication methods.
- Communications less about not being surprised at report card time but addressing things early with intervention from home.

Mental Health:

- Opportunity to have John Fletcher, a mental health provider from Miramichi speak to parents on resilience in students.
- John's professional learning session was well received during recent administration meetings.
- Session available for 125\$ and could be opened up to other area elementary schools.
- Motion to investigate pricing and options, potentially over multiple nights in the area along with the possibility of presenting to an additional age group for a second evening session.
1st: Hannah Steeves Carney; 2nd Tim Yerxa.; All in favor.

Professional Development:

- NBTA rep coming in to talk to staff about staff resilience in January

Playground Improvements:

- Playground might get new swing set in before the snow as well as funnel ball.

Copyright Update:

- Day last week library was cancelled for the librarian to focus on the information gathering.
- Teachers now taking inventory of classroom stocks.

Safety Concern:

- Question around the driveway going up the hill. Students are walking along the side of the driveway to get to the city sidewalks/crosswalk and there is concern about a vehicle losing control in the winter. There used to be a painted line, although this provides no protection. Barriers not an option due to plowing, contractor does not have sidewalk plow.

Funding:

- Feedback was asked of the PSSC regarding the number of options for contributing in a recent period. Would like to emphasize that all fundraising is optional and would like to avoid overwhelming families, especially those that are not able to contribute financially.
- Mrs. Fortner spoke about encouraging student giving when possible and engaging our children when we do give at home in hopes of encouraging lifelong charitable giving.
- Funding for the Art Richard concert has not come through, will be covered by reserves.
- Suggestion of using the Creeker Helping Creeker fund to rollover and possibly pay student fees for students that need financial assistance.
- Clarification to PSSC on how families can donate to the school. Current guidelines direct that giving be solely to the school and not to committees such as Home and School.
- Suggestion of using additional options in school cash online to allow parents to sponsor a hot lunch or school supplies.

Correspondence:

N/A

Action Items:

- Discuss pricing and options with John Fletcher and other schools regarding Student Resilience presentation.
- Reach out to [Keswick Ridge Elementary](#) regarding their implementation of ability grouped learning.

Closing Comments: Thanks for coming

Date of Next Meeting: Nov. 26th 6:30 pm GC Library

Adjournment: 8:56