



Garden Creek Elementary School Fredericton, NB

Parent School Support Committee Minutes

Date: April 25, 2017 Time: 6:30

Garden Creek Elementary Library

<p>PSSC Members Present: Mary Ellen Vaughan, Chair Allan Lynch, Vice Chair Sophia Petrovich, Secretary</p> <p>Others: Jackie Saunders Jacqueline Fortner, Teacher Rep Jodi Parker, Home & School Rep Tim Yerxa Jane Matthews-Clark</p> <p>PSSC Members Regrets: Jason Addison Katina Roberts Michelle Peach Mark Taylor</p>	<p>School/DEC Representation Present: Katherine Campbell, Principal Stephanie Haslam, DEC</p> <p>School/DEC Representation Regrets: Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal</p>
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Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Al; Seconded by Tim; Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting

Moved by Jackie; Seconded by Tim; Motion carried.

Guest Speaker

Lily Smallwood came to talk about the possibility of establishing a school garden with raised beds. Potential funding possibilities include grants that support:

1. Partnering with local farmers
2. Educational healthy eating
3. Afterschool gardening projects.

Lily will look into applying for grants 1 and 2, GC is not interested in #3. Once funding is secured, we will look into the best way of setting up the garden to mitigate the disruption of the summer break.

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Ross Campbell, the head of physical education for the district, will come in to do presentations to students and staff on how to properly use the exercise bikes. Posters will possibly be provided as well.
2. Teachers are not currently interested in following up on the outdoor classroom. Further meetings have been cancelled and will be rescheduled next September.

New Business

Tim will contact the director of Parks and Trees to find out how much support we can get from the city concerning fixing the swampy playground fields. At this point it is not clear who owns the fields and who is responsible for them. To be useful, they need to be drained, which appears to be a huge financial and engineering project.

Report from Principal:

1. Parking lot update: Jersey barriers have been moved and the metal posts are in place for new signage. The city has provided a new crossing guard. Her name is Patricia.
2. 291 students are currently registered for next year. The 2nd grades are completely full, so the current projected class compositions may change. Grade 1 and 3 FI students from Kingsclear and grade 3FI from Keswick Ridge will be attending GC.
3. Perception survey update: the problem of under-challenged children will be a focus at GC next year.
4. Core Leadership meetings are working towards a good email template for consistent reporting to parents. Katherine has added monthly calendars of events to her email updates. Teachers will be completing Term 3 Common Math assessments as well as Key Skills - results to be used for reporting purposes as well as updating the School Improvement Plan and a starting point for the fall.
5. Please see the What's Happening at the Creek handout for details of upcoming GC events.

Report from DEC Representative:

1. Stephanie attended sessions on LGBTQ2, Mental Health, and Capital Expenditures at the May 5th DEC meeting.
2. It was suggested that Stephanie bring up the possibility of a group PSSC meeting with other the other elementary schools that are George Street feeders.
3. We would like Stephanie to bring to the district concerns about the benefits of the policy prohibiting information distribution to children. This currently includes educationally useful information. The GC PSSC feels strongly that the policy has removed a valid and useful source of information to parents and would like the policy changed.

Report from Home and School Representative:

1. Jodi reports that 2000 is left from this years' fundraising events. This is not enough to begin a makeover of the swampy fields on the playground. But it can be spent on 2 more exercise bikes, one for guidance and one for the new classroom. Next year the planned Home and School focus will be fixing up the library, but this can be changed if the fields can be fixed up.
2. Jody Yerxa is looking into the online lunch ordering that George Street uses as a healthier alternative to fast food hot lunch.

Correspondence: None reported

Closing Comments:

1. Hot Topics for next year include:
 - a. LGBTQ
 - b. Outdoor Classroom
 - c. Enrichment for fast learners
 - d. Field improvements
 - e. Rewrite of the policy eliminating information distribution to children to exclude educational materials.
2. Mary Ellen will be stepping down as president and withdrawing from the PSSC and from the fluoride program. Sophia will be stepping down as secretary but remaining on the PSSC.

Date of Next Meeting: June 20, 6pm @ Sam Sneeds

Adjournment:

PSSC Chair

Date

PSSC Secretary

Date

