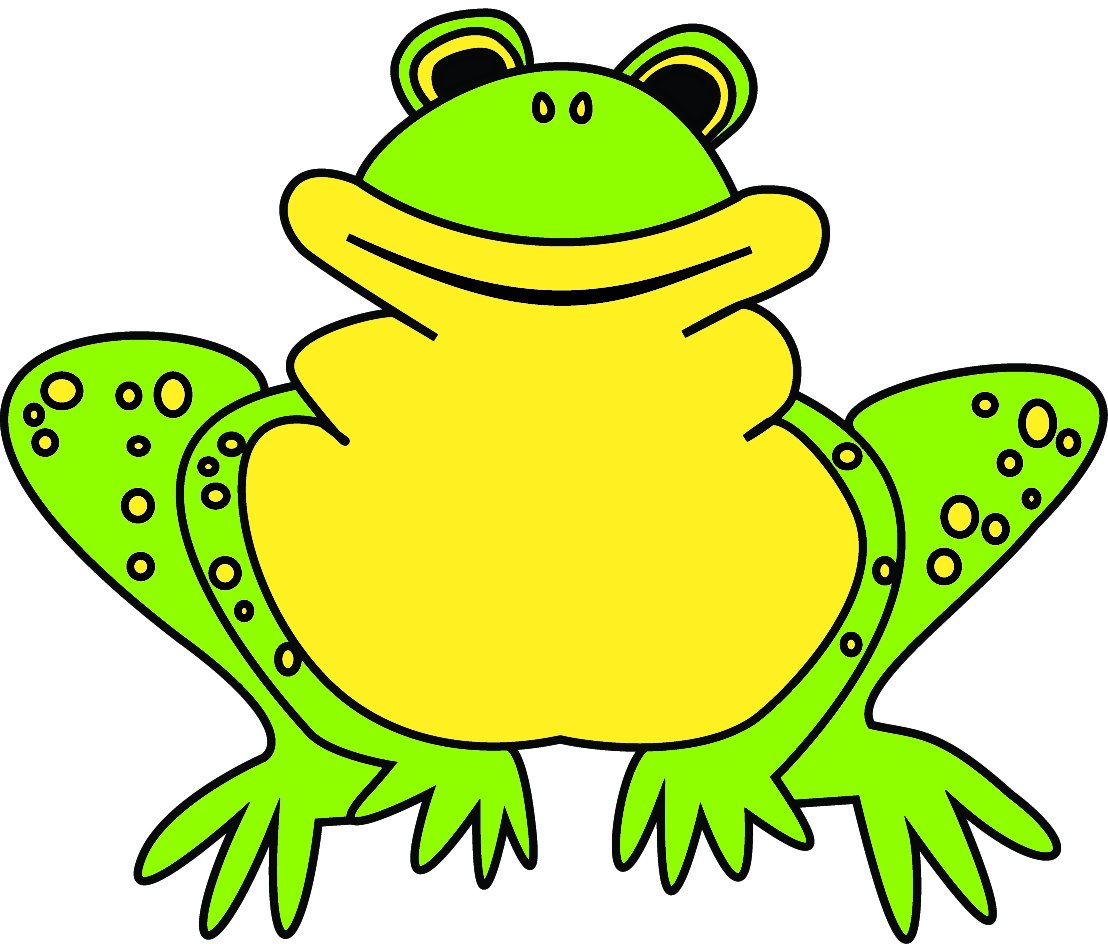
** Garden Creek School PSSC Meeting**  
**September 27, 2016**

# Attending

Mary Ellen Vaughan 2015-16 chair, Al Lynch 2015-16 vice-chair, Sophia Petrovich 2015-16 secretary, Jackie Saunders, Tim Yerxa, Mona Cookson, Jacqueline Fortner, Samantha Robichaud, and Katherine Campbell. Regrets: Nick Sacobie, Jodi Parker, and Jane Matthews-Clark.

Also attending: Michelle Peach, Katina Roberts, Jason Addison, Mark Taylor, and Stephanie Haslam DEC representative.

The 2016-17 PSSC will consist of: Chair Mary Ellen Vaughan, Vice-Chair Al Lynch, Secretary Sophia Petrovich, Principal Katherine Campbell, Teacher Rep. Jacqueline Fortner, Home & School Rep. Jodi Parker, DEC Rep. Stephanie Haslam and Parent Reps. Michelle Peach, Katina Roberts, Jason Addison, Mark Taylor, Jane Matthews-Clark, Tim Yerxa, and Jackie Saunders.

# Business Arising from Minutes

April 2016 minutes were approved by Jackie, seconded by Tim.

# New Business

1. The 10 year initiative plan is being implemented. NB principals will meet in Moncton at the end of October. The plan emphasizes K-2 literacy and numeracy and mental and physical wellness. The GC Positive Learning Plan will address implementation at GC school. Ideally, goals will be aligned across:
   * 1. the Department of Education 10 year plan
     2. the District’s 3 year plan and
     3. GC’s School Improvement Plan
2. Policy 120, which limits the school’s distribution of information for external programs, is now being enforced. This affects GC in that any pamphlets for for-profit events or non-profit events that charge fees are prohibited. Exceptions may be made for programs that are grandfathered at the school such as after school art program or mad science. The department is concerned about the tacit endorsement created by schools distributing advertising. However, the PSSC feels that as it currently stands, policy 120 is too limiting because it prevents families from learning about community events that would benefit students. For example, advertisements for children’s theatre at the playhouse, which is non-profit, cannot be sent home with GC students because there is an entrance fee for performances. Similarly, FredKid is prohibited because of the $2 entrance fee, as are many science, arts, and exercise opportunities. Currently all advertising brochures must be left at the community bulletin board at the front of the school, where the exposure they receive is minimal. While parents do not want to be inundated with advertisements, there is concern that this extreme restriction erodes the role of the school in the community.   
     
   Suggestions for alternatives include:   
   1. The previous system in which the department vetted what was appropriate for the schools to distribute and communicated their decision with the schools
   2. A “community corner” established in a prominent position on the website in which community advertisement can be posted
   3. A parent sign up system enabling parents to opt in to receive information through the school
   4. A monthly magazine of vetted advertisements published by the department and distributed to all students in the district, possibly funded by paid advertisements

Since the PSSC is not happy with the way things stand now, Stephanie will be bringing this up at the next DEC meeting. We do want regulated guidelines, but feel that the policy needs to be revisited because it is too restrictive as it stands.

1. Katherine suggests holding a PSSC-led parent forum at some point in the upcoming year in order to enable parents to communicate what is currently working well and what could work better. Initially, this will consist of an online survey, probably using SurveyMonkey. This month, a subcommittee consisting of Jackie, Katina, and Mark will submit questions, the PSSC will review the questions at the next meeting, and Tim will set up the survey online. An open meeting with parents at the school will follow.
2. While discussing the parent forum, a tangential discussion occurred in which the inconsistent styles of communication from different teachers (e.g. online, email, by paper) were highlighted. Katherine will take this up at the next staff meeting.
3. A parental complaint has been brought to the PSSC concerning a perceived lack of time for students to eat, resulting in unfinished meals. As it stands, lunch is from 12.40-12.55 at which point cleanup begins. Classes begin again at 1. K-2 teachers are more flexible, and lunch is stretched to 25 minutes. There is an hour for recess: 20 minutes in the morning, 40 at lunch. The parent feels that students are rushed during meals, and should be able to relax, enjoy the meal, and have social time. As a solution flexible snacking in class was suggested. Jacquie and Samantha, as teacher representatives, pointed out that having children eat when they want can be very distracting for many students, but some children have special needs and snacking for them can be accommodated. The PSSC suggests that the parent who made the complaint contact their child’s teacher directly. The meal times will stand as they are, but Katherine will make the teachers aware of the issue at the next staff meeting and consider how to accommodate different eating needs for student wellness.
4. PSSC is considering whether GC should implement a fluoride mouth rinse program in order to reach students with poor standards of oral hygiene. However, this program is somewhat complicated to deliver. It takes place once a week for the entire year, requires a large group of volunteers to measure and distribute the fluoride rinse in small cups, and requires special training for the person who is diluting the toxic concentrate with water. No consensus was reached at the meeting, so Katherine will look into finding another school of GC size which is taking part in the program and see how it is working out for them. If we decide to implement the program, it could perhaps start in January.
5. Procedures and Policies:
   1. The new parking lot is working out well. The only issue is keeping people from driving over the unpaved area to get around the drop off - pick up traffic jam.
   2. We have a small issue about parents bringing unwanted dogs onto the property at pick up. GC will establish that dogs need to be kept away from the sidewalk where the kids are gathered, and parents will be informed individually as the issue arises.
   3. The grounds need to be cleaned up and trees pruned. Perhaps a parent could make this a project? It will have to be a spring issue.
6. Katherine suggested that the PSSC communication budget be spent on a detachable banner for the gym, which will then be available for use in other venues. We will also need more GC thank you cards. Jacquie will organize an art lesson in which each student does an original card for the school, resulting in approximately 300 cards.
7. Meeting dates for the year will be: 10-25, 11-22, 1-24, 2-28, 3-28, 4-25, 5-23.

# Report from Principal

1. Please refer to the online What’s Happening at the Creek handout for details of events and activities.
2. Initial meeting for the School Improvement Plan (academic) will be Oct 7th. Then the smaller group meetings of the Positive Learning Environment Plan (wellness, etc.) will follow.

# DEC Report

1. There will be a meeting on Sept 24th in the Tom Morrison Theatre at FHS concerning the overcrowding of the south side schools.
2. Oct 20th there will be a PSSC orientation at Gibson Neal School.
3. Stephanie will bring up Policy 120 at the Oct 6th DEC meeting.

# Correspondence

No correspondence this month.

# Next Meeting: Oct 25th