



Garden Creek Elementary School
1360 Woodstock Rd, Fredericton, NB

Parent School Support Committee Minutes

October 23rd, 2018 6:30pm
Garden Creek Elementary Library

PSSC Members Present:

Allan Lynch, Chair
Mark Taylor, Vice Chair
Andrea Addison, Secretary
Jacqueline Fortner, Teacher Rep
Hannah Steeves Carney, Home & School Rep
Peter Batt, Katie Cote, Jill Moore, Tim Yerxa

Non-Member Regrets:

Lily Smallwood, Jodi Parker

Member Regrets: Pamela Kitchen, Erin Smith,
Holly Pacey, Kim Sorlie

School/DEC Representation Present:

Katherine Campbell, Principal
Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal
Stephanie Haslam, DEC Rep

Call to Order: 6:32pm

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion 1st: Mark Taylor; 2nd: Katie Cote

- all in favour, Agenda approved

Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Motion 1st: Peter Batt; 2nd: Hannah Steeves Carney

- all in favour, Minutes approved

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Fluoride

- delay in material arrival, should be arriving in next two weeks
- volunteers ready to go, Mary-Ellen coming to transition volunteers

School Improvement Plan Update

- data from 2016/2017 including grade 4 and 5 data, teacher and parent feedback
- working on adding student feedback and student voice

- PLC's (professional learning communities) for K-2 – more timely feedback? Once a week Flexible Grouping in 90 minute blocks
- French Immersion 3-5 met last week to look at student writing continuum, help students grasp where they are, where they could be, how to provide feedback
- *Growth mindset* – I CAN do this – I AM working on this
- *Formative Assessment* - what does it look like? Ongoing assessment e.g. guided reading, feedback in writing, pre/post assessments in math – all help formulate next steps
- *Student Voice* – provides students more choice into what/how they learn, e.g. via centers
- District working on play base learning, allow students to choose how they practice a skill
- *Student Forums* – this year students are chosen at random to participate instead of choosing those who speak up more readily
- *Student leadership* –involvement – announcements, playground, assemblies (e.g. Nov 11th)
- *Collective Efficacy* – working together, learning from each other, teachers to meet in grade level teams; provide teachers with release time to get into each others classrooms; STU professor coming in, work around PLCs

Positive Learning and Working Environment Update

- Focus on connectedness and student belonging: 2016/2017 connection piece “who do you connect to throughout the school?”, 2018/2019 focus more within classroom, guidance support
- Continue work on Cultural Responsiveness, incorporating languages into announcements e.g. Maliseet by Mr. Atwin, students
- Multi-Cultural Association coming to present to K-2 and 3-5; hope to plan Multi-Cultural night this year
- Lunch and Learn – parent comes in for lunch and learn around specific culture
- Staff Survey – core leadership team reviewing survey, teaching practices, expectations; Ms. Larsen coming in to do work around Positive Behaviour Supports
- Positive mental health “toolkits”
- Staff Wellness – promote staff working together, feel safe sharing and working together

Playground Improvement

- 2017 Facilities assessment of playground identified numerous needed updates: e.g. exposed cement bases require pea gravel to 12”, leveling, shingles on picnic shelter
- Repairs tendered but pricey – pea gravel \$400 per load; replacement parts only partially covered
- Facilities will tear down unrepaired equipment at no cost, remove anything dangerous
- last major playground renovation was 10-15 years ago; others in community updated (e.g. GSMS raised funds for outdoor equipment)
- Home and School Xmas Bazaar funds dedicated to playground improvements; after Christmas forming committee for playground
- Fundraising? Grants? Aviva Community Fund

Report from DEC Representative: Stephanie Haslam

- At October 18th meeting, voted for Kingsclear Consolidated to receive investment of funds for improvement
- 409's for Liverpool Street, McAdam Avenue, Nashwaaksis Memorial; starting second set of meetings for each school which are public, parents present
- CUPE presentation on school librarians, looking for more allocated hours, better library staffing, ties in with literacy

- November 4-6 Symposium upcoming – breakout sessions involve student mental health and learning, deep learning, ECE, recommendations to Truth and Reconciliation, allocation of education funding, nourishing minds (impact on learning), monitoring and using data to inform SIP and PLWE)
- Policy 120 – Al and Tim met with Wayne Annis to present position that home communication on community events is essential, Policy 120 too restrictive, closed door on community connectedness for families
- Outcome – Wayne took concerns to senior leadership grouping, however decision made not to open policy to reconsider
- Question regarding 2017-2018 meeting with all PSSC chairs and Kimberly Douglas, could this type of meeting happen again, keep on radar

New Business:

Change of Noon Hour Schedule

- general theme of more time needed to eat for several years now
- students taking longer to eat and cutting into class time significantly
- new development seems to correlate with hot lunch (e.g. Chartwells days)
- affects mainly younger students (esp K-2), need more time to change, opening containers
- lunch hour scheduling is not regulated therefore can make changes
- solution? K-2 separate bell at 12:30, come in 10 minutes early, 3-5 keep regular bell

Report from Principal:

- portables – being painted, flooring repaired, Mr. Burnett’s class may move, bring down from K-2 floor, good technology access in portable
- Mr. Burnett’s old classroom to be multi-purpose, SLP, clubs, group work
- Soccer nets are now anchored and getting lots of use
- Outdoor equipment may get stored in bins inside classrooms
- Work on library update continuing, waiting on furniture
- Mrs. Fortner received an ArtSmart Grant for \$3000, enrichment program in spring; will be a NB centered project including music, dance, writing, artwork; possibly a production for parents

DEC Symposium – November 4th – 6th

- Al will be attending, will update following

Correspondence: none

Closing Comments:

- DEC is working on proposal to province regarding Policy 711
- Asking province to revoke policy due to impact on hot lunch, snacks, cafeterias

Date of Next Meeting: November 27th 6:30pm, Garden Creek Library

Adjournment: 7:23

