

**Garden Creek Elementary School**

Fredericton, NB

**Parent School Support Committee Minutes**

October 24th, 2017 6:30pm

Garden Creek Elementary Library

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| **2017-18 PSSC Members Present:**  Allan Lynch, Chair  Andrea Addison, Secretary  Lily Smallwood, H&S Rep  Tim Yerxa  Kim Sorlie  Pam Kitchen  **PSSC Members Regrets:**  Mark Taylor, Vice Chair  Erin Smith  Michelle Taylor  Angela Whitlock  Sophia Petrovitch  Jackie Saunders  Erik deJong | **School/DEC Representation Present:**  Katherine Campbell, Principal  Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal  Jacqueline Fortner, Teacher Rep.  **School/DEC Representation Regrets:**  Stephanie Haslam, DEC Rep  **Visitors:** Carole Plourde, Garden Creek School, Phys. Ed teacher  Jodi Parker, Home & School President |

**Call to Order: 6:36pm**

**Approval of the Agenda:**

N/A

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Minutes will be approved at next meeting, November 28th

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Outdoor Classroom update – discussion deferred until Nov.20th meeting (Alex McLeod out sick)

Health Promoting Schools – HPS 2016-17 initiative; Carole Plourde & Jacqueline Fortner presented update on Student Connectedness & Engagement, in particular with respect to student volunteer activity

* Overview of surveys including Parent Perception, Student Wellness, Community at a Glance, arrived at **two goals**:

1. **Improve school environment to foster increased connectedness for students and improve student leadership**

* Carole Plourde, Samantha Robichaud, Jacqueline Fortner and school nurse Kim Greechan met with ~30 grade 5 student “volunteers” (leaders), students put their names into their top 3 of 7 identified volunteer categories:

1 –“Home and School” – help with movie nights, bazaar, food events

2 – Stage Crew – assist with concerts and assemblies

3 – Playground – assist with outdoor activities

4 – Physical Education – helping Mme. Plourde, in gym

5 – Hot Lunch / milk program deliveries

6 – K-2 classroom help

7 – Morning Announcements

* Next Steps: include Team Building activities including taking groups into the community to observe volunteers in action eg food bank, hospice boutique, playhouse ushers, how important are volunteers in greater community; invited guests come to work with group at school
* Program ideals/philosophy similar to Duke of Edinburgh, Young Leaders, Me to We programs in promoting global citizenship
* Possible future direction, invite grade K-4’s to become involved after Christmas?; ask creeker Alumni at George St Middle School to return and talk to creekers about volunteering,
* Discussion around recruitment of “parent talent”, privacy issues, doodle polls?, could refresh this resource information annually Tim Yerxa volunteered to work on an online survey if needed, Katherine Campbell will reach out to Pierre Plourde for framework

1. **Playground Improvement**

* Students are requesting soccer nets for the field – high priority item to students
* Go New Brunswick Grant Application – Carole Plourde and Jacqueline Fortner, grant would cover cost of two nets, not installation
* asking for PSSC support – possibly a name or letter from the PSSC membership indicating that the school supports the application and believes it to be a valuable target for the school;
* **Home & School –** are there any funds available from H&S to show that there is school support/backing for this new infrastructure – installation cost coverage?

Policy 120 Plan Review **–** Tim Yerxa **-** Materials for Distribution in schools – possible approaches to seeing if district would re-open the discussion

**Concerns with policy:** impact on family/community life, interfere with access to or knowledge of enrichment, educational and health opportunities, isolation of school from community based programs and events

**Exclusions:** if a partnership exists between a school and a 3rd party organization, then communication to families is permitted regarding that specific organization

**Possible actions:**

* Talk to other PSSC’s for opinion – approach other elementary PSSC’s, possibly GSMS
* Garden Creek chair possibly sit in on GSMS PSSC to discuss
* Invite GSMS feeder school reps to Garden Creek to have meeting re policy
* If a group is assembled, recommendations could be put forward for eg a centralized “communications program”, or newsletter circulated via schools ~quarterly with approved content from district
* Question whether DEC rep should be involved?

Feeder School PSSC Meeting?: side note came up during Policy 120 discussion

* Joint PSSC meeting for feeder schools to GSMS
* Al will possibly reach out to other PSSC chairs

PSSC Orientation Session – Thursday November 9th, 2017, Oromocto Education Centre, 17 Miramichi Road, Oromocto, at 6:30 pm

**New Business:**

**1 - PSSC budget priorities** – where to spend budget ~$700-800

* 2016/17, mainly used for paper
* **Paper**  - still used by many to communicate with parents, approx. $2/student
* **Signs:** signs actually came from Principals budget not PSSC, one sign still requires repair
* **other options for budget -** communication through **hallway monitors** (screens) – help students think about their actions, communicate current events
* Cost of monitor only, district install
* must spend money by **March**, idea of monitors tabled until cost estimate is acquired

**2 - Home and School Chair – Jodi Parker** annual H&S fundraising and budgeting process

* annually approx. $2-3000 held back from previous year funds
* consider requests from staff and admins, money is set aside for drama, art supplies, equipment
* recent years, $ put into technology (netbooks, ipads, stationary bikes)
* 2017/2018 – direct funds towards playground equipment – soccer nets? track?
* Health and safety issues in current playground equip, some repairs may be covered by district
* If soccer nets are obtained via Go NB grant, H&S $ could be used for other outdoor needs
* Other considerations: field water drainage issues – who has responsibility – if land is deeded to city; try to approach city and ask about taking action?
* **Ideas for field/equipment fundraising -** corporate sponsorship? Donations (families, alumni, names on plaques, tax receipts)? – Possible fundraising campaign by a dedicated committee not H&S, or H&S run committee, but executed via administration due to need for tax receipts

Report from Principal:

1. **Security Cameras Update**

* 10 total: 8 inside, 2 outside, wiring began Oct 24th, motion activated
* Katherine to follow up with notification of parents, check how images will be used/kept/shared; any district policy on how images used
* Need for additional camera back of school behind library, deter vandalism, cost for additional camera?

1. **Fluoride Mouth Rinse Program**

* 10 volunteers, could stagger all 10 or choose 2, in organization process

1. **School Improvement Plan Update**

* Garden Creek staff met to discuss SIP as it relates to District Improvement Plan, assembled list of top strategies and goals to be taken to Core Leadership
* **DIP goals** - **1 -** strengthen teaching practices, learning environments, foster engagement and increasing student voice; aid students with being self aware of learning
* GC working on i) increasing cultural awareness in school, ii) use of voice, communicating thoughts/feelings, iii) self-directed learning, learning centers
* **DIP goal – 2 –** formative assessment, student awareness of where they are and where they need to go “assessment capable learners”; Garden Creek providing purpose of assessment, goals, timely feedback,
* **DIP goal 3 -** collaborative leadership; Garden Creek co-teaching, co-assessing/planning, release time for teachers to observe other classes, embedded learning (eg Professional learning days, teachers teaching each other)

**Tuesday afternoon Professional Learning Days:**

* One benefit is that Educational Assistants were able to be present
* Many students absent, parents not sending students for shortened day?, will attendance be looked at by district? Issue may be raised at future Prinicpal Leadership meetings

**PLEWP (positive learning environment working plan):Staff goals–** strengthening understanding of what positive working and learning environments are

**Student Goals** – promoting connectedness – student leadership to promote student voice, involvement in community, volunteering, talent show; school wellness eg safety, wellness; communication, parent connectedness eg seesaw, teacher pages, websites (discussion re district websites not user friendly)

**4 – What’s Happening at Creek Update** – please see Creek update sheet for September 2017

**Report from the DEC Rep:**

Stephanie Haslam unable to attend, sent info, presented by Chair

* New Superintendent Catherine Blaney replacing David McTimoney for 2017/2018
* Parenting in a Digital World presentation October 25, FHS
* November 16th, next public District Education Council meeting, all welcome to attend
* High School Student Leadership conference going at Delta, November 2nd

**Correspondence**

**N/A**

**Closing Comments:**

* Katherine Campbell’s leave – who will replacement be during her January – June deferred leave, Katherine will communicate upcoming leave to parents with available information via email
* Lily Smallwood - Nutritional Literacy Funding Program application due November 2nd, approval to apply agreed upon

**Date of Next Meeting: November 28th**

**Adjournment:** approx. 8:20pm

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**PSSC Chair Date**

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**PSSC Secretary Date**