

Garden Creek Elementary 1360 Woodstock Rd, Fredericton NB Parent School Support Committee Minutes

Date: January 25th, 2022 Time: 6:30 – 8:15 Location: Virtual TEAMS meeting

PSSC Members Present:	School/DEC Representation Present:
Alex Yaychuk	·
Catherine Elvin	
Kim Sorlie	
Mark Tayler	
Sam Robichaud	
Paul MacIntosh (DEC rep)	
Pamela Kitchen	
Stephanie Babin	School/DEC Representation Regrets:
Michelle Armstrong	
Andrea	Paul MacIntosh
Holly Pacey	
Dr. Jennifer De Jong	
Lily Smallwood	
Jill Moore	
PSSC Members Regrets:	

Call to Order:

Mark Taylor - 6:30pm

Approval of the Agenda: Pam and Alex

Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting: Michelle and Pam

6:30 - 6:35	Call to Order	
	Introductions to DEC representative	
	Call to order:	
	Approval of the Agenda	
	Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting	
6:35 - 7:04	Business arising from the Minutes	
	PSSC Budget:	
	Check in with Andrea and Stephanie – both parties talked to Rocket (Taylor Printing) and	
	Stephanie received the quote (\$260 for the banner - \$110 for design – Stand up is \$345 and	
	\$110 for design). Alex asks if the total of all this is within our budget (\$900) and Pam	
	motions to proceed with these two items. \$605 is an estimated total. Alex asks if we could	
	push for it to be BIGGER so that we can get as close to the \$900 as possible, unless	
	someone has another idea for the remaining money. Mark motions to use more of the	
	money, Michelle suggests maybe two banners. <u>Dimensions of the stand up would be 5ft</u>	
	tall and the banner was 3x6. Andrea suggests two different banners, one with slogan and	
	one with school name. She also suggests using the rest of the budget on paper, but Alex	
	reminds that we are not going through all the paper that we already have. Mark suggests	

going back to the vendor (**Stephanie**) to go as close to the \$900 as possible and then return to the group to let us know what the outcome of that meeting would be. **Pam** asks about placement of the cutout/banner in the school and a discussion ensues about possibilities – ie one banner for top and one for bottom floor, cutout by the front door, by the office etc. **Mark** suggests **Stephanie** goes back for 2 banners and a cutout and will reach out to the whole group to motion for an official purchase if we agree on the designs.

Air Quality:

Mark mentions that we had a conversation about this before Christmas and since it's been a topic in the media recently, we would like an update from Alex. Alex shares that on December 2nd we had RPC testing done in the same classrooms that had been tested in April 2021. These schools were flagged as needing a follow up. Library, two classrooms and one downstairs, were all tested. All classrooms (per reports reviewed on December 7th) were within the ranges of CO2, but a follow up was given to certain teachers on what they could do to reduce the CO2 emissions (by opening windows). Since that time, we have received 36 HEPA filters (60 schools in the province, 16 in our district) and are in the process of setting these up. Alex's goal is to have these ready to go, up and running, on Thursday so that by the time students return, the units have been running for several days. We have 16 classrooms, and each received 2 HEPA filters, then 4 extras (2 in the music room, 2 unplaced as of yet). Lily asks Arus Beyond Guardian unit? Can teachers turn these up to high during eating periods, as the kids will be unmasked during that time. Andrea asks why the portables weren't tested compared to the rest of the school, Sam says originally every room in the school was tested in some way and from there that was how they narrowed things down. Alex adds that even the classes with high numbers, they didn't fluctuate that much between April and December, and when he followed up with facilities that there is a peak point once per day (midafternoon). Pam is glad that GC is selected to receive the HEPA filters, YAY! Lily adds that it's not just a filter, it's also a UV light that is proven to be more effective. Michelle asks if we can share this with parents, Alex says he plans to and to also share information/website.

Online Learning:

Alex will summarize in the Principal's Report.

7:15 – 8:08 <u>Principal's Report</u>

- This month and last month's highlights: P/T interviews and Report cards went out. PL for teachers involving the use of Green Screen Technology, Home and School efforts (Holiday Bazaar \$14,000), 100s of Rapid Test Kit roll out (twice), Last day before the holidays was able to be shared in person thanks to these tests etc, Theme days (jerseys and PJ days), Holiday concert filming, , Christmas Cards for seniors was a great success (2 cards per student), School Spirit Committee Challenge #2 (doors!), Grade 4 and 5 Student surveys completed, Teacher perception survey completed.
- <u>Dec 17th</u>-last day for students. Teachers worked in school and participated in Core Leadership meetings and whole teaching staff activity for School Improvement Planning.
- Jan 7th and 10th: Teachers returned and started to prepare for the switch to online learning. Teachers continue to work beyond their regular work hours to accommodate families and to meet all students where they are. Synchronous and Asynchronous learning, learning packets, a variety of communication tools and formats were incorporated at different grade levels.
- At Risk Students: Students were invited to the building (vulnerable students) so that their personalized needs could be met. Various criteria were examined mentally, physically at risk, language learner, PLP, at risk environments. Multiple schedules were created to enhance the learning experience for our students (PE, recess, music, language learning, snack times, special lunch made by Executive Chef Alex Yaychuk). Guidance and Resource are each offering support to small groups of teachers. Transportation was considered in this process as well many moving variables. The teachers and staff at GC will do anything they can to make the kids' experience a memorable thing. We are smarter than I.
- <u>Priorities when students return:</u> Ensuring student safety and the winter plan guidelines are followed. Reforming the kids' identity as Creekers. We will be focusing

on re-connecting with peers and adults in the building. We will be reestablishing routine and structure, return to the positive learning environment. We will be reassessing students' level of comfort (academically, emotionally, physically, socially). We will also be reassessing students' current level of understanding (much like we did in September). Pedal to the metal on the POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT to refocus and create an environment for progress. A feeling of love, comfort, safety, and welcome will be paramount.

- <u>Teacher support:</u> Minimize disruptions, offer opportunities for small group interventions (close academic gaps), promote a one step at a time quality teaching approach
- **Safety Update:** Use the covid dashboard, check this daily. Keep the School Winter Plan up to date. Important to add this dashboard to your "favorites" and make this a daily practice to check. Michelle asks about the dashboard and wonders about the lack of communication – having the information in front of you vs having to seek out the information ourselves. Andrea asks if the school will be communicating if a student is positive and in specific classes? Alex says we are not permitted to use school messenger to pass along the information about positive cases. We are not permitted to say which class the case is in because of privacy issues. What about grade level identifiers – he was told no, but it is something that they are still in conversation about. There may be some leeway on this. Alex is going to be asking this question again at the Admin meeting this week, to clarify if he can send communications to families. Lily asks about contact tracing (up to a person to notify their close contacts), and how is this different from reporting lice, chicken pox, vomiting etc. with regards to notifying parents. Alex agrees but he is trying to understand Public Health's and the District's thinking – re: contact tracing, the only contract tracing that we need to be aware of is that now ANYONE in the school is now a close contact if ANYONE in the school tests positive. In taking this approach, it's a one brush stroke approach where there is no need to contact trace, lessens the work for Public Health. Michelle asks if this is a concern that should be returned to DEC. Paul will raise this concern at the meeting on Thursday. Holly owns a daycare and was allowed to share more information that she thought she would, right down to the bubble, close contact. Maybe that will help to leverage. Pam asks about the protocol – once the school has a certain number of cases they would shut down? Alex says there is no magic number, and to be honest staff testing positive is a whole other big concern re: staffing concerns. References to Cardy's SWAT team which could play a part in the operational days. Mark is asking what flags this, and Alex explains: someone is always watching AESOP and there is a flag that goes off then he is contacted and if the positions couldn't be filled then the school would not open. Jennifer asks about reimplementing POCT tests or rapid tests, and Alex responds that it all must go through 811 still. Kim asks if there have been talks about hybrid learning – ie grade 4 goes to online and the rest of the school stays in person. Alex responds that this is a possibility, but there would be other factors that Public Health would be directing the district on (how long do we have to have kids out of a certain room, to get cleaning done, have enough staff etc). Jill asks about creating a work around with classroom FB pages to communicate parent to parent re exposures. Parents can optionally join and self-report. Bus exposures won't be reported by bus number now.
- Facilities Update: Coat hooks from inside the classrooms on the bottom floor were moved to the hallways. CO2 testing was conducted. Library is READY FOR USE! Yay! Library will resume on Mondays and Tuesdays. HEPA filters were delivered. Discussions have resumed with the Lilypad Project fundraising campaign coupled with Grant. An intentional fundraising campaign. We will be approaching a contractor in the community to see if they can help with funds, as well as the City of Fredericton (shared facilities approach). We have confirmation on the Grant that will be submitted by the end of March. Discussions have resumed with upgrades in the gymnasium (possible overhead projector).
- Core Leadership Team: In the CLT's efforts to target goals from June 2021 and attempt
 to dig deeper into strategies that would yield the greatest impact on our students'
 levels of achievement, the CLT shifted their focus to goal #2. Staff will become



	knowledgeable and apply socially emotional competencies to support each other and students. Using the School Indicators from the provincial framework, our CLT identified specific criteria unique to SEL. We then presented to our teaching staff and had them work together in small groups to determine a rating for each of the highlighted indicators. Results of the rating within each of the selected indicators will be assessed by the CLT in order to action next steps/strategies. We will be sharing these findings with the PSSC in February.	
7:04 – 7:15	New Business	
	• Paul's Update DEC: There hasn't been too much activity since our last meeting. One public meeting since November, next meeting is next Thursday. Lots of talk about the 3 new schools and infrastructure as well as online/distance learning. The question of catchment was raised, and any information will come directly from district. Paul is the chair of the committee for naming the Hanwell school, on the district website there is a link encouraging people to participate and give suggestions. The Minister used to get the final say, but now the DEC gets the final vote/say on the naming process now. Is there anything we would like to bring forth? Pam asks about the yearly symposium, but Alex says he hasn't heard anything about this, nor has Paul. Pam suggests talking about resilience and mental health at the next DEC meeting which would be of value to all schools in the district. Alex brings up the toll on educators and staff in the education system right now over the last two years — mental health at all levels <3.	
8:08 - 8:15	Closing Remarks	
	Pam asks about hybrid model of parents who keep their kids home because of no measures in place – no regulations. Would teachers be able to provide in person and online content for students who are staying home due to health concerns, parental concerns expectations etc. Andrea is commenting that kids with symptoms must stay home for 10 days etc. and during that time there needs to be an expectation developed and relayed to staff/parents. Question asked about returning with symptoms – provided that their symptoms are not worsening, and that they have had a negative test then they can return to school. No proof is permitted to be asked for.	
	Next meeting date is: February 22 nd , 2022 (Virtual) Mark: You still sound sick; I hope you are resting! <3 Cathy: Finalize minutes and email out to Committee Members.	

Items for next meeting:

- Rocket Final Design (email to committee to approve before meeting)
- **DEC Update**
- Project LilyPad update
- Anything "dug up" from previous PSSC's past oOooOo Spirit of PSSC Past Adjournment

PSSC Chair	Date