

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

Date: March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 Time: 6:30 – 7:55 Location: Virtual TEAMS meeting

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

## **Call to Order:**

Mark Taylor – 6:30pm

Approval of the Agenda: Lily and Coral

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting: Lily and Alex (I think) Adjustment** – Paul attended the last meeting. Another adjustment is Alex put the remaining funds from PSSC budget towards paper purchasing because we ran out of time. **Motion:** Cathy **Seconder:** Michelle

6:30 - 6:35	Call to Order	
	Call to order: Mark	
	Approval of the Agenda	
	Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting	
6:35 - 6:45	Business arising from the Minutes	
	Signage for the Lobby (banner and cutout of frog):	
	Originally, we received the two banners and one cutout. We were left with some remaining	
	funds, and we inquired if they would be able to do another "something" and they said they	

	could do another cutout but BIGGER. They made a bigger version, and it had a flaw in it, so they		
	offered it to us for \$25. So, we got two more REALLY BIG frogs. Thanks to Alex for this.		
6:45 – 6:50	New Business		
C.F.O. 7.42	DEC questions/concerns:  Pam asks about the Hanwell School – they are having an open house in April. Still waiting to hear if they have extended the zoning to include Upper Kingsclear area, since the LSDs were changed and Upper Kingsclear is now part Hanwell. Can Paul check in on this? Alex knows that there have been letters delivered to families in zones that would be affected by this, but otherwise he will only know when they decide to tell us. Pam: Do we know anymore about the Symposium? Cathy: Any information about Grade 1FI and what is happening there? Alex: not really anything information wise regarding that, except they've said "not to worry" about 1FI when thinking about FTE for next year.		
6:50 – 7:42	Principal's Report		
	Highlights for the last months:  Recurn of students  Reconnect and Re-assess  Lilypad meetings: continued planning with District members. Biggest hurdle has been the timeline for this. Our hope was to submit a grant for the end of the fiscal year, but that will likely not happen now. However, we have made a lot of plans for dedicated fundraising campaign of this endeavor, and we have meaningful contacts now in the community who have indicated they want to help (financially). There are some good things happening. Time was against us.  Staff Appreciation Week: Daily recognition and activities for staff from H&S and admin.  High Positive Covid count: 32 approximate cases reported in the school in about 25 days. We had a process to follow at the time in reporting those cases through the dashboard, but that has since changed.  3 weeks of ongoing academic interventions: This wasn't communicated publicly, but district provided our school with the funding necessary for release time for 3 full weeks of school. This allowed teachers to pull small groups and work on interventions/extending learning during small periods of time. All our teachers received some form of intervention time. This was great for kids who had been impacted greatly by the COVID distance learning.  Pink Shirt Day: story readings and heart puzzle activity (challenge). The hearts were designed by the kids and then they were cut out and another class put them together. They had great messages and affirmations on them, words of encouragement and positivity.  Winterlude activities: Global Play Day, Rock/Paper/Scissors tournament  Youth Fusion Program – a program that has been working with our school for a few years. They have granted us with some money for some money for outdoor upgrades/outdoor learning. We have applied for next year, a growth wall. This is essentially a wall made of plants. This allows kids to maintain and learn about plants throughout the year. It's a really neat way of decorating the inside of your school as well. We have approval for		

 School District staff shortages: we have so lucky to not have been affected like some schools have been. Many schools in the city are emailing one another in the morning letting each other know how many classrooms are short and positions unable to be filled. We have hired a supply teacher who is available to us every day for the next week and a half now (was three weeks) who is exclusive to us. There are simply not enough bodies in these unfilled rolls. We haven't yet had to cancel Physical Education or Music classes.

### **Safety Updates:**

**Holly** asks about in theory if kids could come to school with COVID. If a family member has COVID, can the kids come to school, what are the guidelines? **Alex** says he hasn't heard if things will be looked at again, but right now there is no screening process, and a negative test is not required now. There will be no communications from the school imposing any kind of opinions on the lessened restrictions, but also empathetic and sympathetic to families, students and educators at this time.

**Michelle** asks that since the district is not imposing rules, other places are keeping restrictions in place, do we have any authority as a school to make decisions one way or the other? For instance, no assemblies etc. **Alex** says we kept our school pretty darn safe throughout COVID and he doesn't want to rock the boat too much or switch things up at this point. The no mask thing is a big enough change. Families and kids are going through a lot and juggling those emotions now is just as important as it was during the restrictions. He is open and welcome to those opinions. For instance, field trips are permitted now and families may want to know what that will look like – these will be discussed on a case by case basis.

**Lily** asks about outdoor physical education classes. Our biggest hurdle right now is that our grounds are really soft and muddy right now. Mrs. D. is looking forward to going outside with the kids after we finish up this gymnastics unit.

- Covid Dashboard: families are no longer required to share their positive cases with the school.
- Students and staff have the option of wearing a mask inside, outside or on the bus.
- There is not a formal screening process anymore, specific symptoms, but are being asked to stay home when they are sick.
- P.E. and Music restrictions are now completely lifted.
- Clubs, intramurals and choirs are allowed now.
- Assemblies and concerts are now permitted without restrictions.
- Visitors may enter the building however appointments are still being expected and virtual meetings can continue to be offered.
- HEPA filters will continue to be in use until a full mechanical ventilation system is installed.
- Fans in classrooms are now permitted.
- Field Trips are now permitted.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- Report Card Workday: March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Professional Learning Afternoon: March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Report Cards: April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Parent-teacher interviews: booking or in-person
- Provincial Principals Meeting: March 30<sup>th</sup>
- PL for Admin: International Formative Assessment Virtual Conference \*Alex\* and National Conference in Alberta on Educational Leadership \*Sam\* and Women in Leadership \*Sam\*
- Jays Care Softball after school Program for Girls (6-weeks)
- Clubs for students
- Fire/Lockdown Drills and Possible Evacuation Drill
- School-wide approach to topics within SEL

#### **School Improvement Update:**

- Core Leadership Team are reviewing Data from TPS
- In the CL Team efforts to target goals from June 2021 and attempt to dig deeper into strategies that will yield the greatest impact on our students' levels of achievement, the CLT shifted their focus to goal #2 – SEL



Closing remarks/questions:  Pam asks, have you noticed any changes in the last couple of years, perhaps before and during COVID. Alex says the last survey that has been completed was the 2018-2019 year, so unfortunately things were not current. However, we have made big gains as a school, and the challenges we have had three years ago seem to remain the same. It is good that we haven't gone backwards, even having gone through some crazy times in education. Lots of optimism in the room when we discussed the Teacher Perception Survey. Our staff has a great attitude!  Lily asks about if Alex will be returning next year or not? Alex says that there are still things that need to be aligned for next year and that he isn't sure yet.  Mark proposes an end of year gathering, but the next meeting will still be virtual.		<ul> <li>The goal is to present a variety of SEL resources/theory and work through some common scenarios in Role Playing Activities. Participants will receive a bank of these resources as well as a "takeaway" document with strategies to implement. March 25<sup>th</sup> PL day!</li> <li>CLT has analyzed the data from the teacher perception survey, and the PSSC reviewed the celebrations and the target areas for improvement.</li> </ul>
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Cathy: Finalize minutes and email out to Committee Members.		Pam asks, have you noticed any changes in the last couple of years, perhaps before and during COVID. Alex says the last survey that has been completed was the 2018-2019 year, so unfortunately things were not current. However, we have made big gains as a school, and the challenges we have had three years ago seem to remain the same. It is good that we haven't gone backwards, even having gone through some crazy times in education. Lots of optimism in the room when we discussed the Teacher Perception Survey. Our staff has a great attitude!  Lily asks about if Alex will be returning next year or not? Alex says that there are still things that need to be aligned for next year and that he isn't sure yet.  Mark proposes an end of year gathering, but the next meeting will still be virtual.   Next meeting date is April 26th, 2022

Items for next meeting:
- DEC representative update
Adjournment

PSSC Chair	Date
PSSC Secretary	Date