



**Garden Creek Elementary School**  
1360 Woodstock Rd, Fredericton, NB

**Parent School Support Committee Minutes**  
January 26, 2021 6:30pm  
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

**PSSC Members Present:**

Mark Taylor: Chair  
Katie Côté: Vice Chair  
Pamela Kitchen, Kim Sorlie, Coral Shuai,  
Holly Goodwin Pacey, Jill Moore, Lily  
Smallwood (Home and School Rep)

**Not Present:**

Tim Yerxa

**School/DEC Representation Present:**

Katherine Campbell, Principal  
Samantha Robichaud, Vice Principal  
Sara Perry, Teacher Rep

**Community Rep:**

Andrea Addison

**School/DEC Representation:**

Laura O'Brien, DEC Rep

**Call to Order: 6:30pm**

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion for approval of agenda:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Katie Côté 2<sup>nd</sup>: Andrea Addison
- all in favor, agenda approved

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Katie Côté 2<sup>nd</sup>: Andrea Addison
- all in favor, minutes approved

**Report from DEC Representative:**

- First public meeting was held regarding the two new schools being built (one in Killarney and one in Hanwell)
- Hanwell is nearing completion (this fall) and is a K-8 school
- Naming committee coming together for the fall as well as a new DEC committee
- Killarney school to be named North East School
- First meeting was last week regarding the specs for this school

- \$2.9 million slated for Capital Improvement (CI) from the Department, and there are about 25 projects currently on the list
- On the 'request' list for Garden Creek School currently is: replacing canopy roofs 3 and 4, fixing/replacing two sets of doors at the front entrance, and replacing and resealing all windows
- Katherine would like clarification about what exactly is on the list for GCS because some of those repairs have been done to the windows already
- RE: PSSC budget – how the budget money is meant to be spent needs to fall under the PSSC mandate and needs to be spent by March 2021 (Garden Creek has spent their PSSC money on accessing Seesaw license for the school)
- Bring Your Own Device program – FHS is the last high school to begin using this program and now the program is moving on to middle school, then elementary
- Digital learning discussion – there are two resource sites discussed
- Parent survey – most PSSCs felt that there have been enough surveys sent out already so another one will not be sent out at this time
- There was a question from a committee member wondering if there were any parent committees created for those families impacted by the potential move to the new Hanwell school. Communication regarding this has been limited to those who fall in that potential catchment area
- Katherine to look into it on her end and see if her Director has any insights on this

### **Business arising from the minutes:**

- Wet field update:
  - A lot of emails have come through about this
  - The field belongs to the district
  - Facilities are very specific on how to go about doing this. Required is a professional engineer to provide a proper quote on cost. There also needs to be careful consideration with where the water will run off and looking at the catch basin
  - Is this financially a school responsibility? Is there any grant availability? Can this be considered a CI project?
    - CI projects are triaged, so it is not on a first-come first-served basis
    - The field could be added to Garden Creek's CI list
  - Home and School has been fundraising for a new playground, but how do we move forward if it continues to flood? What is the point of spending the money on the playground if the field isn't fixed first?
  - Fields are great in the winter but as soon as it rains in the spring, it's a mess
  - Track and Field is impacted too
  - Subcommittee to continue focusing on this issue
  - Katherine sent a letter to District and the new Facilities manager came to check it out, but Katherine wasn't there that day and Samantha was teaching so no one had the chance to speak with her **but she has been in contact with District around it.**
  - Could we add this project on to the Home and School fundraising campaign?
  - Andrea spoke with an engineering firm (CBCL), and they would be willing to come look to determine what would be involved in the design and provide a quote, at no initial cost
  - A property survey might be required

- Water management could be as simple as a retention pond
- Katherine wants to be transparent with the District as approvals do need to be made through them as well. Andrea can get in touch with the gentleman she spoke with, he can contact the school and make arrangements to visit
- Katherine and Andrea to get the ball rolling on this for an initial consultation

#### COVID-19 protocols:

- In the Red Alert level, all adults entering the school were screened by Katherine and Samantha
- Staff required to read and answer the COVID screening questions and then sanitize their hands upon entry
- There was a limit where people could take breaks
- One person permitted in the staff room at a time during Red (as opposed to 4 people permitted at one time in Orange)
- Bathrooms are now gender neutral for adults during Red only
- An issue for the teachers and staff in Red is the lack of connection among peers
- Mask use hasn't been an issue for students, who have shown their resilience
- Phys Ed in Orange – no masks is the only change
- We are now back to two symptoms
- Attendance has remained relatively consistent
- WE CAN DO HARD THINGS
- When students are quietly working at their desks they can take their masks off
- Kids are running hard while outside and can lower their masks to take a break if needed
- Some of the barriers with masks is that you form the sounds of language with your mouth and while wearing a mask, that can be impacted. It is also harder to hear people speaking so you need to use your 'mask voice'

#### District events:

- Virtual STEAM – used to be more parent driven
- Drama – virtual, within the classroom bubble (there is a teacher on staff who loves drama and is looking into maybe doing something with her class)

#### **Principal's Report:**

- School goals: Social Emotional learning
- Every two weeks they work on a new aspect
- First aspect was the "Power of Yet" – learned this through songs, posters and celebrating accomplishments
- Next aspect is "Affirmations" (four words long)
- These will be passed in to Katherine and read over the announcements
- Forthcoming: "Try, Try Again"
- Digital Learning: District is giving support around Office 365
- February 5<sup>th</sup> half day for teachers for grades 3-5 teachers to get that training from home (to help the teachers learn how to navigate it. This is step one of two)
- Other business: data notebooks, centres, individual spelling lists

- Collaboration in PLCs
- Math Lead is Sara Perry, who is supporting new teachers going through the math curriculum
- Teachers who are 'one of' (for example, only one of each in grades 1-3 English) are paired with other teachers teaching those grades in other schools for support and collaboration
- Youth Fusion project - \$3000 from District
  - \$5000 worth of professional support from Youth Fusion
  - Youth piece is all around student voice
  - Three teachers have been meeting with Fiona (from Youth Fusion?), who has been helping them work with the class to come up with ideas for structures
  - This will help enhance outdoor learning
- Spending budget: more iPads, guided reading books, take-home books, tech survey
- Hot lunch from Great Canadian Bagel was a big success, without any issues
- Bilingual Learning Grant is offered every year – considering a mural promoting French culture in some way (needs to be spent by the end of March 2021)
- PL after the Office 365 training – how to apply it to the elementary setting

### **Questions?**

How is Seesaw working out?

- Mostly parents on Seesaw; trying to get the students on because there are great resources there (particularly grade 5)
- Younger age groups (K-2) are trying to get use to the computer first and learning the basics
- Talk amongst the teachers on how they are using it and who is using it in what way

### **Correspondence:**

N/A

### **Closing Comments:**

Group thanked for their attendance

### **Date of Next Meeting:**

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 6:30pm on Microsoft Teams**

**Adjournment: 7:45pm**