



**GEORGE STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**575 George Street Fredericton, NB E3B 1K2**  
**Parent School Support Committee Minutes**  
**Date: March 13, 2017      Time: 6pm**  
**Location George Street Middle School Maker Lab**

<p><b>PSSC Members Present:</b> Pamela Kitchen, <b>Chair</b> Lisa Colwell, <b>Secretary</b> Tim Yerxa, Tina Manuel, Darren MacKenzie, Kim Kelly, Nya Black</p> <p><b>PSSC Members Regrets:</b> Dave Bowen, Heather O'Connell</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Carly Furlong (Fredericton Sexual Assault Center) &amp; Jacob Langley (Brilliant Labs)</p>	<p><b>School/DEC Representation Present:</b> Pierre Plourde, <b>Principal</b> Terry Pond, <b>School/DEC Representation</b></p> <p><b>Regrets:</b> Peter Manson, <b>Teacher Rep.</b></p>
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**1. Call to Order 6:01pm**

**2. Introductions by Chair**

**Guests:** Carly Furlong ([c.furlong@bellaliant.com](mailto:c.furlong@bellaliant.com) 506-454-0460) & Jacob Langley

**3. Minutes from last PSSC meeting**

- Approval of minutes. Any changes to the minutes? Terry was late and not regrets. Add to regrets, Darren MacKenzie, Kim Kelly
- Review of minutes (Actions taken & Business arising)
  - a. Tina approved minutes

**4. Parent Session, "Empowerment" via Fredericton Sexual Assault Center**

- Carly Furlong joined us to talk about the Grade 8 presentations which have been made.
- We would like to work with FSAC on something for our parents as the "not my child" session was well received.
- FSAC is looking to meet with District to implement programs within school level. In conversation phase at the moment. Right now they are limited to offerings due to budgeting, staffing and availability.
- Recommendations made by PSSC for a parent evening: 1 hour timeframe plus time for questions (15 minutes), empowerment theme can work (empower young girls, man to man project). Can we split the project in half so everyone can hear about both sessions? No specific content required but perhaps something on dating.
- **Action:** Carly to get in contact with Heather O'Connell for a parental value session for grade 6,7,8.

## 5. Brilliant Labs – Jacob Lingley

- Brilliant Labs is a non-profit organization who aims to create an innovative learning environment for students in the Maritimes. Receives majority of funding from Department of Education. Can be innovative to make sure teachers and students have access to the info and technologies to complete a project.
- There are 48 maker spaces throughout NB alone. Another 23 in NS. PEI is coming on board.
- Jacob showed a couple of examples: grade 7 student designed a cryptex that tests knowledge of proportions. They also do some coding and design work. Can be low tech to high tech.
- Strategy to pull kids in: leverage capacity with what happens in the school. Have champion teachers and students to get started and bring others in. What projects are they working on that can be elaborated? All grade 8 students will be brought in to the maker space for some project or another (embedded into the curriculum).
- Not just about consumption, it is about creation
- Jacob based here, but works province wide. He is also a math teacher. Our maker space was provided by a couple of IT companies.
- Will all students get a chance to come down? During options the room is available and would like to draw students in with certain activities and subjects. There are 30 or so students who, with part of their regular class, have a project going down here. This includes all grades.
- We would like to communicate to parents about the initiative to get more kids into the program. There is a twitter feed (@brilliant\_labs) & website (brilliantlabs.ca).
- April 5 would be a great time to show the space. **Action Pam** to reach out to Jacob to get a message together to share the program with the school parents.

## 6. Chair's Report – PSSC Budget updates

- \$2,123.11
  - \$193.91 June(Luncheon)
  - \$591.48 (Language Nut)
  - 957.11 (printing – grade 6 flyers). Option to hand over to SRC budget.Balance: \$380.61
- Ideas:
  - Printout for Maker Lab initiative and what parents should know about it.
  - Parent evening. We did a donation last year to Sexual Assault \$200 last year plus light refreshments and coffee.
- Communication survey option. Possible questions handed out to everyone (**see attached**). Have option for cheap option or a pay-for option. Waggi versus Survey Monkey. Do we want to come up with questions or be consulted on same?
- Tim offered his Survey Monkey account & suggested 2-3 people to work on the survey to drill down to 10 questions to the group. Tim, Lisa & Peter (or Pierre if Peter is busy).
- Send link via email by school administration

## 7. Teacher Report

- Peter Manson to replace Anne Manderson as she has accepted another position. Peter was unable to attend this evening.

**8. Principal’s Report**

- Info re: seesaw app. Greg Webber using it now. Can give presentation to PSSC once he has it up and running. Should note that Seesaw is free up to a certain # of clients using it.
- Confirmed budget can be used for laptop purchase only, no cell phones per District
- April 5 is the showcase for Marketplace
- Pierre has data to send to us since we have had 2 meetings cancelled.
  - Policy 7-11 data, our school did not pass. Health survey report to follow from Pierre
  - Teacher perception survey to follow from Pierre
- SIP, has not heard anything from members, but will send info electronically to us as to where we are at.

**9. DEC Representative’s Report**

- Healthy living and nutrition reported at DEC Jan meeting.
- Kingsclear study voted in
- New Director of Education is Wayne Annis
- Leo Hayes study to take place

10. **Next PSSC Meetings** –Scheduled are April 10, May 8, June TBD

**11. New Business –**

- Wednesday March 29 – first parent meet for grade 8 farewell dance. Dance will take place in June.
- Making up for snow days. No plans at this time but will see if anything comes up for snow days in March
- Date for Dance may change given the time crunch for events and holidays. Need something catchy in the title to grab parent’s attention.

**12. Adjournment 7:30pm**

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**PSSC Chair**

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**Date**

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**PSSC Secretary**

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**Date**

## Communication Survey

### Points:

- **5 minute survey**
- **Word Survey in a way that doesn't commit PSSC or GSMS to something that can't be followed through on**
- **Could have a 2 part survey – one about what they want and another about what they use**
- **General feedback question at the end**

### Suggested Questions:

What type of information would you like to have communicated?

Is there something missing from the current communication that should be included?

How do you feel about receiving daily/weekly/monthly communication from PSSC/the school/the child's teacher?

What information do parents want to hear from your teachers? We can have a list and they can check all that apply.

What information do they want to hear from your school? List and check all that apply.

What information would they like to hear from the district? List and check all that apply,

How often they currently receive communication from the teacher (we know Pierre sends a weekly email).

How do parents obtain information now? Check all that apply.

Expected turnaround time from parental inquiries?

We should ask if parents use the website and/or parent portal at all, Maybe we can get insight about what we can/should use it for?