



**Park Street Elementary School
Fredericton
Parent School Support Committee
Minutes
January 12, 2017 at 7pm
Park Street School Library**

<p>PSSC Members Present: Jeff Beairsto, Chair Krista Ross, Teacher Rep. Olwyn Klinker Katie Lenihan Julie Peterson</p> <p>PSSC Members Regrets: Jill Dickinson Tanya Carr</p>	<p>School/DEC Representation Present: Rien Meesters, Principal Tracy Stewart, Vice-Principal</p> <p>School/DEC Representation Regrets: None</p>
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Call to Order:
7:00pm

Approval of the Agenda:
Approved by consensus.
“Grade 5 Celebration” added under Other business.

Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:
Approved as circulated by consensus.

Business Arising from the Minutes:
None

New Business:

Principal’s Update:

After School Enrichment Activities

Tracy Stewart updated us on the success of the first block of after school enrichment activities and informed us that Mr. Garth Wade will be leading a block that will coincide with April 19th and National Let’s Talk To Our Kids About Money Day which will also incorporate a money fair. Toastmasters will be holding a block in February/early March, Jeff Beairsto indicated an interest to hold a block on astronomy and Tracy is still actively seeking more interest from the community.

Classroom Audio Systems

All of the systems are now installed and a high percentage of teachers are actively using them. Initially there were a few minor charging issues, the company has been contacted and advised the

school it could be a battery issue, but if it persists they will replace them under warranty. The new system has been successfully integrated into the existing system, however, the teachers are not yet utilizing the system to its full potential, but that will come with time and training. Recording mini lessons on laptops to be shared will be a PD shortly.

School Brochure

Rien showed a graphic of the draft school brochure that was being used to generate feedback and suggestions from students (specifically the graphic design team), teachers, PSSC and Home and School. He will be gathering all feedback and recommendation and present the selected items to Ginger Graphics at the same time as we only get so many edits. He indicated that the wording itself as well as the French translation will need to be firmed up, for now it was the appearance only that was being worked. Some of the recommendations put forth by the PSSC included:

- A slimmer Parker the Panda (reading a book under the tree) and the tree itself seemed a bit too “cartoony”.
- Flatten out the arc of the rainbow and replace the blue semi-circle at the bottom with an open book with the words “The Best Possible Place to Grow” coming from the pages.
- The coloured titles at the top of the second page need to repeat as opposed to being different colours between the French and English wording.
- It was suggested a graphic of Parker the Panda wearing his backpack rather than the tree, for the back cover.

School Improvement Plan

Rien will be meeting this Spring with faculty to review and re-assess the SIP for the next three-year term.

Olwyn suggested that perhaps sending home the pre and post tests or at least the scores would help parents have a better understanding of their child’s progression in the flexible grouping programs for both literacy and math. This could be worked into the parent teacher interview program whereby they would be available for review at that time or sent home for review and returned, or a combination of the two.

Grade 5 Celebration

The parents and students have proposed a change in the format of the grade 5 celebration which typically involved a celebration at the school. They would like to use less of their funding for a smaller scale school portion and the majority of the funding to have an overnight event at Snider Mountain Ranch. This is a 3 day, 2 night event that will cost approximately \$125/child. Teachers will organize the logistics of the event and parents will either fundraise or pay for any excess costs associated with the event. Rein shared with us the detailed Grade 5 Celebration Policy guide that he will meet with the committee to review on January 19th. We did reiterate the internal policy that states the child must be a current grade 5 student at Park Street School at the end of June to participate in this celebration. Olwyn wondered if this is something we could re-visit, but it was determined there had to be a line drawn, and for now, the rule stands, especially where it rarely becomes an issue. PSSC approved the change in the Grade 5 Celebration to include an off-site trip to Snider Mountain Ranch.

Profile of a Grade 5 Student:

Jeff took the work the PSSC had done thus far and with the focus on execution strategies, he was able to assign them into groups with key differentiators that are relevant to a Park Street School student and not just any other elementary school student. See attached chart for the final result.

The key categories are bolded. The initial thought is that this spreadsheet gets merged with the School Improvement Plan as we lack the evidence the teachers have, but perhaps this would be useful in a supporting role. Rien likes the mindsets, knowledge and skills categories and feels these can easily be integrated and connected to the SIP. The next steps are to create goals and to execute. Jeff will share spreadsheet in google docs so we can all be involved in making changes easily.

Screen Time for Students:

Olwyn expressed concerns about the amount of screen time children receive, even cumulatively over the course of a day or week and how this transpires into mindless eating while watching TV or videos. There is not currently a policy in place that regulates screen time for students, nor any plan to implement one anytime soon. Rien indicated it would be monitored moving forward.

Other Business:

Rien asked for our February 22nd meeting agenda to include a discussion on room issues (library/music/ISD). Briefly he explained that ISD (Integrated Service Delivery) model will require designated space in every school next year. Given our shortage of space already, it needs to be discussed whether we give ISD the current music room and divide the Library into two classrooms, making one a smaller 21st century library and the second a designated 21st century music room. The district are willing to help with the cost to accommodate the ISD model, so perhaps the timing is good to look into this option. Discussion needs to happen around, for example, an \$8,000 solid wall versus a \$35,000 retractable wall (creating some flexible workspace). As well as conversations around technology versus playground needs and perhaps creating an outdoor classroom.

Correspondence:

None

Closing Comments:

None

Date of Next Meeting:

February 22, 2017

Adjournment:

8:25pm

**Jeff Beirsto
PSSC Chair**

**January 18, 2017
Date**

**Julie Peterson
PSSC Secretary**

**January 18, 2017
Date**