



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

**Date: October 25th , 2022, Time: 6:30 – 7:55
Location: Virtual TEAMS meeting**

<p>PSSC Members Present: Melissa Chetwynd – Chair Stephanie Card – Vice Chair Michelle Armstrong Jennifer DeJong Kim Sorlie</p> <p>PSSC Members Regrets: Holly Pacey Coral Shuai Diane McCullough Andrea Addison</p>	<p>School/DEC Representation Present: Alex Yaychuk - Principal Catherine Elvin - Grade 3FI teacher</p> <p>School/DEC Representation Regrets: Paul MacIntosh (DEC rep)</p>
--	---

Call to Order:

Approval of the Agenda:

6:30 – 6:35	<u>Call to Order</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to order: Melissa (informally) • <u>Possibility that we don't have enough voting members present tonight.</u> Alex suggests that if there is anything we need to vote on, we will defer to next month's meeting. • Paul sends his regrets for not being able to attend. • Approval of the Agenda – Alex resends this so that those who said they couldn't find it, would have it. • Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting
6:35 – 7:17	<u>New Business / Introductions</u>
	<p><u>Feedback on meeting reminders:</u> Melissa brings this to the table, and everyone is in agreeance that the current schedule/timeline works. Thank you for your work with this Melissa.</p> <p><u>Response to province re: ending French immersion by next September:</u> Paul will be meeting with the DEC in an upcoming meeting next week and believes this will be a hot topic of conversation. Paul is open to us</p>



sharing our concerns/questions so that he can bring this forth to the DEC. **Alex** relays that they are planning on phasing French Immersion out starting in the Fall of 2023. From a district standpoint, it has been very quiet – administration is not yet being involved in this discussion. *What will the impact of this be on our school/our students?* **Alex** relays that there is nothing official yet. There is a deadline of “consultation” of November 30th. **Can students converse in French** seems to be the highlighted topic of conversation? What does that mean for instruction? Will we be reducing minutes of French exposure? FLORA? A lot of questions/unknown variables at this point. **Alex** admits there would be a massive ripple affect with our staff and students, class composition etc. Some talk of how French Immersion could be considered a “streamed” program at this point, and the end goal is to have generalized French learning for all. Some schools did elect to do an alternate French program pilot – they were piloting every student in the school K-5 would receive 30-60 minutes a day of French instruction. **Alex** opens the floor for questions/concerns:

These will be shared anonymously.

Questions:

- What is the timeline for the program?
- What are the supports in place to help students transitioning from French to English?
- Who will be teaching this program?
- Are educators being involved in the process/consulted?
- Where is this program coming from? Has it been piloted elsewhere?
- Will the information from the pilot programs be shared publicly? What is the science/research behind this switch?
- Could school populations be affected by this? I.e: parents transferring students to the francophone district, parents switching to privatized education for their children?

Concerns:

- Short timeline – an understanding of how the program will be rolled out, with students who have already experienced barriers/challenges to learning these past years.
- If the expectation is for more than just conversational French at the end of high school/by employers (bilingual), why is the switch to a mostly oral program?



- Parents with students at different levels – how will this affect students at different levels in the education system. How will be address these learning gaps?
- Students transitions from the French strand to an English strand – where are the pitfalls for students who haven’t had English support up until now?
- Parents who are moving into the province coming from elsewhere were not allowed to have their children participate in the program. If we are a fully bilingual province, how is this acceptable? The French program is streamed and maybe not accessible to all.
- A shortage of French Immersion teachers – will we be gutting/losing these valuable teachers to other places, because of this new program? How much is the shortage playing a part in this decision? Is this a recipe for burnout, constant change to the program?
- Will this provide meaningful learning opportunities for students and educators?
- Parents who could provide alternative education to their children, if this program doesn’t roll out the way it is planned – could the school population be affected?

Is the priority curriculum available to parents? Any information to share on it?

Alex gives a summary of the prioritized curriculum and what it means. Basically, targeted outcomes to cover “first” as a priority before other outcomes. The fundamentals of literacy and math, as well as integrated studies. **Cathy** shares what is available online for parents (see link), that differs from what educators receive.

<http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/ParentResource/SiteAssets/Pages/Prioritized-Curriculum-2020-21/PriorityElementaryMathCurriculum.pdf> - initial prioritized curriculum, informative document.

Michelle had a question about French vs. English curriculum, and **Cathy** responded that it’s pretty much the same. Same outcomes and expectations for both programs.

Update on Kingsclear Consolidated School survey.



	<p>Paul will have more information on this. There will also be a meeting between Principals and the district – Alex, Pierre (Hanwell) and Marcie (Kingsclear) to talk about data that was collected. DEC has said that this information will mostly affect catchment areas and how that will change over the next year or so. They will be making decisions based on families’ needs. He does not have a specific timeline for when this meeting will take place. Michelle: Will this change again if French Immersion is changed next year? Yes, all catchments will be affected if/when this new program rolls out.</p>
7:17 – 7:50	Principal’s Report
	<p>Monthly Highlights: School safety (fire drills, bus evacuations, lockdowns, virtual assembly, playground procedures, etc.), Cross Country meets, Java Moose Coffee Fundraiser, Orange Shirt/Truth and Reconciliation Day (virtual assembly), Hot Lunch Survey, Bottle Drive (Creekers Helping Creekers), Student led clubs have started up (arts, running, soccer, drama etc.), Field trips (apple orchard, Science East, Kingslanding), Garden Tours (Mr. Burnett and Mme McLeod), EGLA (applying the science of reading to K-2 students),</p> <p>Facilities Update: We have a new outdoor shed, that was provided to us from district as a new storage place. The school has put in some work orders for shelving, and the shed will hopefully be painted by students. Cameras and lighting to be installed to keep our new shed safe. Playground – one structure for sure to be torn out, and one to be updated/removed as well. The school has identified a couple of unsafe areas that will be discussed/resolved.</p> <p>Lilypad Legacy Project: Fundraising for this continues.</p> <p>Core Leadership Update: Next Wednesday, November 2nd, the staff is doing a 2hr PL with self-awareness, social awareness, student-student relationships, and self-management. Nov. 8th there will be a follow up survey so that staff can choose one of those categories to intentionally target for the last six weeks before Christmas. Core Leadership will be following up with staff on a weekly basis to help support addressing one of these competencies.</p> <p>PSSC Budget: \$926.42 This budget is based on student population from year to year. This money can be used for reimbursements of appropriate travel expenses for PSSC members, costs for PSSC meetings and PSSC sponsored education workshops for parents, and communication costs directly related to PSSC responsibilities. Alex had inquired to have some of the budget to be spend on cameras/security for our playground/outside space but was told this would not fit PSSC criteria for spending. Ideas: family in-service for mental health, additional signage, paper costs, donor recognition wall.</p>

	<p>In previous years with the budget, the committee has just followed the direction of the principal and spent the money in that way. Not looking for a decision at this meeting, but the PSSC will continue to discuss this in future months. Melissa has asked that Alex reach out to staff to ask what they would want?</p> <p>Upcoming Dates: Holiday Bazaar (Nov. 26), Family Movie Night (Oct. 28), Spooktacular (Oct. 28), Diversity, Respect and Anti-Racism presentations (Nov. 17), Report Card and PL Day (Nov. 18), Core Leadership Presentations on SEL, Return of Drama! (Initial meetings), Remembrance Day of Reflection (Nov. 10) assembly.</p>
<u>Closing Remarks</u>	
	<p><u>Melissa gives thanks for everything that happens behind the scenes at Garden Creek School.</u></p> <p>Next Meeting: November 22nd, 6:30pm</p>

Items for next meeting:

- **DEC representative update**
- **Information on French Immersion program?**
- **PSSC Budget update/ideas**

Adjournment

PSSC Chair

Date

PSSC Secretary

Date