



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

Date: February 28th, 2023 Time: 6:30 – 8:30
Location: Garden Creek Library

<p>PSSC Members Present: Melissa Chetwynd – Chair Kim Sorlie Holly Pacey Michelle Armstrong</p> <p>PSSC Members Regrets: Stephanie Card – Vice Chair Andrea Addison Jennifer DeJong Coral Shuai Diane McCullough</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>
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Call to Order: Melissa calls the meeting to order. Kim seconds.

Approval of the Agenda:

6:30 – 6:35	<u>Call to Order</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to order: Melissa • <u>This is our first in person meeting since before COVID. The committee is meeting in the school Library.</u>
6:35 – 6:40	<u>New Business / Introductions</u>
	<p><u>Attendance</u> is about half this week. The committee was concerned about this. We will move forward with the meeting as there will be no voting required. For future meetings, Melissa will request that regrets be provided sooner (when possible) to ensure that meetings can proceed appropriately.</p>
6:40 – 7:00	<u>Principal’s Report</u>
	<p><u>Innovative Immersion Program</u> put on hold and will not go forward this September. Positive feedback about this. The only impact that will have on our school is that French Immersion Registration is now open for 1FI – two sessions will take place (information about the program). Details will be sent to families from the district.</p>



	<p>PSSC Budget: Suggestion of Thank-You cards was heard but we have many still available. The committee purchased paper with these funds. \$926.42 was spent on this.</p> <p>Hot Lunch Survey: Positive feedback – the school is switching to bulk orders going forward instead of weekly orders based on feedback. There were also some comments on the options for food (great). The feedback also included that portion sizes were larger than needed – unfortunately, the vendors were unable to adjust these portions or costs.</p> <p>Mactaquac Field Trip: Rescheduled for 3-5 for March 16th (Thursday). K-2 students had a great time on their field trip to the park and participated in lots of activities.</p> <p>Monthly Highlights: Winterlude the last week before March Break, 4-5 students attended swimming lessons, Staff Appreciation Week, Pink Shirt Day (Feb. 22nd), new VP to fill Jennifer Kelly-Milner’s maternity leave will be Heather Cairns (very excited to fill this role). Heather will be replaced by Jacqueline Saunders one day a week to teach her class. Watershed presentations, Black History Month presentations (K-3 and 4-5 videos) went well and were enjoyed by students.</p> <p>Lilypad Legacy Project: Funds: \$230,000 fundraised to date. Alex says that he has some ideas/renderings of the possible outcomes for the playground – he will share these at the end of the meeting. Part of the process for applying for more money and funding through grants require “letters of support” by community members. Kim has offered to do this, and will even go door to door to collect support etc. Alex says she will share information with Amy White to coordinate some documents for future grants. The biggest moving part now is the timeline to move forward and getting contractors on board.</p> <p>Upcoming Dates: March Break, Family Movie night (Friday, March 17th), Jump Rope for Heart starting, new rounds of Hot Lunch, March 24th (non-teaching day) and PL on Preventative and Response to Behavior Management.</p>
7:00-8:30	School Improvement Planning
	<p>School Improvement Plan: The committee reviewed data collected through the Teacher Perception Survey as compared to district and province wide data. Alex provided a summery created by the Core Leadership team to review, with specific points to discuss and focus on. The four themes that were identified by the CL team were: Behavior management, student achievement, student ownership, and learning supports.</p> <p>“Staff at Garden Creek School are humble and always ready to learn new things.” - Kim and Holly</p>



“The pressure is real and the demands on teachers grow each year.” – **Holly**
“We strive for perfection knowing that we will never attain this, but we have staff who are committed to trying their best to meet the needs of all” – **Alex**

Questions for Core Leadership Team:

- Was there ever an opportunity for staff to reflect/debrief on these results yet? Could teachers/staff be allowed to share the meaning behind their choices and express themselves?
- What are the parameters around teachers and/or administrators being allowed to make recommendations/suggestions around behavior etc. to parents?
- Could teachers be more candid/honest/proactive with parents about behaviors and problems when they occur and in presenting a clear snapshot of what is happening in the classroom with their student?
- How can teachers give explicit and constructive feedback to students that will encourage them to grow and develop?
- Do you feel that you are adequately setup as a public school system to meet personalized learning goals?
- Teachers have so much on their plates; how can you possibly meet the needs of every student? How is one teacher supposed to accomplish all this?
- How does the school “triage” EAs and decide how an EA is shared between students with needs?
- Have you considered having PLCs more often during the month? (Twice a month rather than once?) **Alex** replies that the school had decided to go forward with a once-a-month PLC meeting in favor of other things (PL, SPR meetings, club, and committee meetings).
- Is there a way for parents to run committees that the school could offload to them? (ie: breakfast program, mittens/clothing, yearbook, other needs...)
- Student choice: Could students have input on theme days? Could they student leaders during indoor recess time for younger grades? Could students present on something they are passionate about to another class “being the teacher”? Could Ann Draper be a mystery reader? Could students be on the announcements? Could we have more students in leadership roles (playground monitors, bus monitors, help with crossing the street)? Student clubs for enrichment?
- Week of Wonder: could we bring this back?
- Could parents volunteer in the school to provide enrichment or support for students who need one-on-one needs?

8:30 **Closing Remarks**

The committee extended our meeting to 8:30 this evening to get through the “data walk” and finish up the important discussions that were being had.



	<p>Playground plans were not viewed due to time restraints.</p> <p>Next Meeting: March 28th, 6:30pm</p>
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Items for next meeting:

- **DEC representative update**
- **PSSC Budget update/ideas**

Adjournment

PSSC Chair

Date

PSSC Secretary

Date