

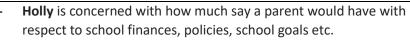
Garden Creek Elementary 1360 Woodstock Rd, Fredericton NB Parent School Support Committee Minutes

Date: May 23rd, 2023, Time: 6:30 – 8:00 Location: Virtual TEAMS meeting

PSSC Members Present:	School/DEC Representation Present:
Kim Sorlie	Alex Yaychuk - Principal
Holly Pacey	Catherine Elvin - Grade 3FI teacher
Jennifer DeJong	Paul MacIntosh (DEC rep)
Coral Shuai	
Michelle Armstrong	School/DEC Representation Regrets:
PSSC Members Regrets: Andrea Addison	

Call to Order: Alex makes the call to order because we have no chairperson currently. **Approval of the Agenda:** Michelle

6:40 - 6:41	Call to Order
	Call to order:
	 This meeting was in person, with food provided by the school
	(Monks and Jonesie)
	<u>Attendance</u> is about half this week. The committee was concerned
	about this but will move forward with the meeting.
6:41 - 7:40	New Business / Introductions
	6:40-7:30
	Education Governance Renewal: Role of the PSSC will alter with more active
	role on School Improvement Decisions.
	- Paul comments that the Committee of DEC chairs are trying to fight
	some of these changes. GCS is a really engaged committee, but other
	schools may not be – this new structure would require possibly more
	time commitment from parents to the school level, but the DEC would
	be more restricted in having an opinion/democratic process.
	- Alex comments that he doesn't know yet what meetings will look like,
	what the expectations would be for different members vs. admin
	presentations during the meeting, or even what the changes/structure
	would be.



- Jennifer comments that because the francophone district was protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, they will not have the same changes that the Anglophone districts to the Education Governance Structure.

Executive Steering Committee: to lead next steps for improvements in English Prime and French Learning – survey and emails. The NBTA has agreed to partner (Ardith Shirley) as well as a representative from EECD (Tiffany Bastin) who will be co-leading/collaborating with this committee.

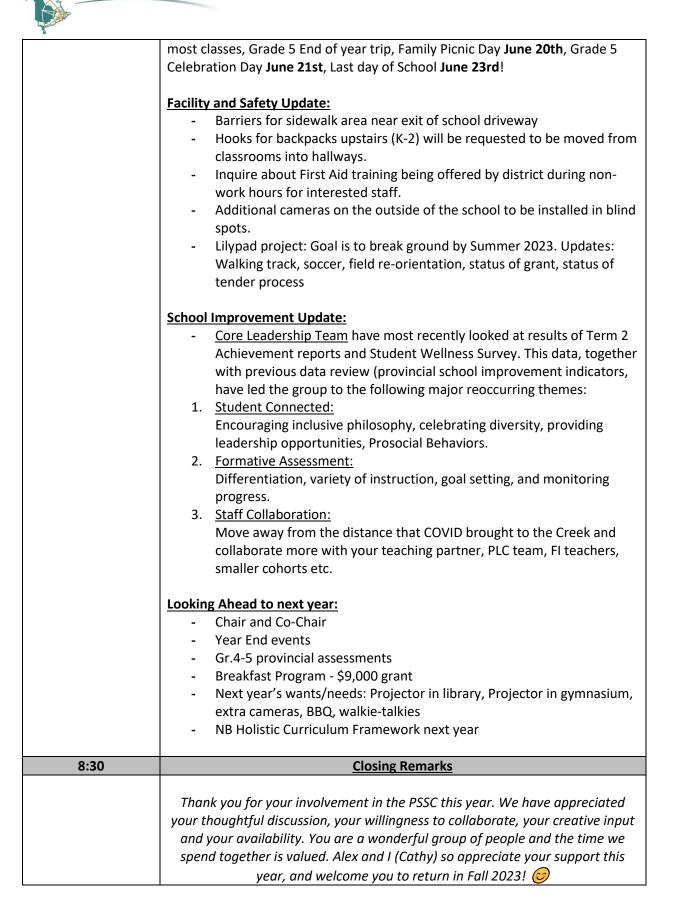
Policy 713 review: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

- **Kim** has concerns about staff and student mental health, after seeing so much hate and disagreement in the media surrounding this. She wants to know how to help/support the school and is willing to write a letter of support if needed.
- Alex points out that as an Elementary school, our students are a little bit removed from this issue. Staff are going about the status quo, not being influenced by these issues or this talk. Not sure what this means for our school as far as advocating for this issue to be resolved, to include their opinions etc., but it has brought on some discussion among staff. Would like to see where this current situation in the media takes us and waiting on District guidance.
- **Kim** wants to know how we can be on the right side of history with this. She knows the struggles of young students at other schools and wants to be part of a solution, wants the voice of our committee to be heard.
- **Holly** asked about which policies are under review. **Cathy** responds with the two policies that are being discussed. Listening to this be broadcast in the media was eye opening and upsetting, in the number of people dissenting to this.
- Jennifer comments about the safe space/environments that might not be available without this policy. Students would no longer feel safe to share their identity at home, especially in rural/at risk communities.
- **Paul** steers the committee in the direction of writing a letter, sending it around to the other PSSC members, agree, and then he would forward the letter on to the district.
- Alex speaks to a committee of Diversity and Inclusion that will be developed in the Fall, dealing with these types of issues. Kim inquires about PLs, Wednesday afternoon learning sessions, groups that could come to speak to staff etc.

Actionable item:

Could Garden Creek have a gender-neutral bathroom in the school?

•	- Holly suggests sending a survey at the beginning of the school year to
	anonymously identify their student who may require something like
	this. Kim also suggests having a neutral bathroom to share, so that
	attention isn't drawn to a particular student. If you are near this
	bathroom, you use it.
	- Jennifer says that if our school is trying to inclusive as possible, then
	should we not try to show that, promote that in a way that our shows
	that our community is safe and supportive.
	How can Garden Creek show their support by saying "this is a safe, inclusive
	space, and all are welcome here."?
	- Student and staff voice – collecting and tabling these ideas, then
	introducing these ideas to the community, this committee etc.
	- Holly wants to know how diverse our staff is, could we include more
	outside members (parents, grandparents, community partners, etc.) to make sure that everyone is represented.
	 Alex mentions that there is specific training surrounding these ideas
	(surrounding for instance something adjacent to the Gay Straight
	Alliance in middle/high school).
	Letter writing to the district: Kim has volunteered to spearhead the letter to
	the district and Holly and Michelle will add input. Michelle already has some
	ideas and volunteered to collect and organize ideas of the members into a
	cohesive letter. All members are in support of writing this letter.
	With regards to our "retired" members: With Melissa and Stephanie having to
	resign from the committee, Kim asks why that needed to happen? Paul
	responds that it was their affiliation with the school (Melissa as lead and
	Stephanie as Substitute Teacher) it necessitated relieving them of their duties.
7:40 -	Principal's Report
	Monthly Highlights:
	Breakfast program, whole school field trip to GSMS, Blue Jays "Girls at Bat",
	Yearbook contract, Worlds UnBound girls club, Principals GC-5 year contract awared, Report Cards/PT Interviews, Living Wall, Creeker Clothing, H&S
	Fundraisers (tailored tots, gift baskets, Mabels Labels), Grade 5 Transition
	Meetings, Student Appreciation Week, Admin Assistants Day, Lunch and Learn
	AED training, Professional Learning for all staff, Music Festival, Lego PL for Gr.
	4-5 Prime Classes, Council Day, Grade 4.5 Provincial Assessments, Hot lunch
	(Final round), Fire Prevention Presentation, Volunteer luncheon, Track and
	Field Day.
	Upcoming Dates:
	Welcome to K Orientation, Drama Production (Aladdin Jr.) June 1st, Family
	Movie Night May 26th, School Spirit Theme Day, Grade 5 Orientation @ GSMS,
	District Track and Field Day June 2nd, K-2 Fun Day June 7th, Field Trips with





Items for next meeting: - See you next year!! 😊

Adjournment

PSSC Chair

Date

PSSC Secretary

Date