



**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**

<p><b>PSSC Members Present:</b> Kim Sorlie Holly Pacey Jennifer DeJong Coral Shuai Michelle Armstrong</p> <p><b>PSSC Members Regrets:</b> Andrea Addison</p>	<p><b>School/DEC Representation Present:</b> Alex Yaychuk - Principal Catherine Elvin - Grade 3FI teacher Paul MacIntosh (DEC rep)</p> <p><b>School/DEC Representation Regrets:</b></p>
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**Call to Order:** Alex makes the call to order because we have no chairperson currently.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Michelle

6:40 – 6:41	<u><b>Call to Order</b></u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call to order:</li> <li>• <b><u>This meeting was in person, with food provided by the school (Monks and Jonesie)</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Attendance</u></b> is about half this week. The committee was concerned about this but will move forward with the meeting.</li> </ul>
6:41 – 7:40	<u><b>New Business / Introductions</b></u>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6:40-7:30</b></p> <p><b><u>Education Governance Renewal:</u></b> Role of the PSSC will alter with more active role on School Improvement Decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Paul</b> 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.</li> <li>- <b>Alex</b> 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.</li> </ul>



- **Holly** is concerned with how much say a parent would have with respect to school finances, policies, school goals etc.
- **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?*



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Holly</b> suggests sending a survey at the beginning of the school year to anonymously identify their student who may require something like this. <b>Kim</b> 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.</li> <li>- <b>Jennifer</b> 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.</li> </ul> <p><i>How can Garden Creek show their support by saying "this is a safe, inclusive space, and all are welcome here."?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student and staff voice – collecting and tabling these ideas, then introducing these ideas to the community, this committee etc.</li> <li>- <b>Holly</b> 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.</li> <li>- <b>Alex</b> mentions that there is specific training surrounding these ideas (surrounding for instance something adjacent to the Gay Straight Alliance in middle/high school).</li> </ul> <p><b>Letter writing to the district:</b> <b>Kim</b> has volunteered to spearhead the letter to the district and <b>Holly and Michelle</b> will add input. <b>Michelle</b> 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.</p> <p><b>With regards to our "retired" members:</b> With Melissa and Stephanie having to resign from the committee, <b>Kim</b> asks why that needed to happen? <b>Paul</b> responds that it was their affiliation with the school (Melissa as lead and Stephanie as Substitute Teacher) it necessitated relieving them of their duties.</p>
7:40 -	<b><u>Principal's Report</u></b>
	<p><b><u>Monthly Highlights:</u></b>  Breakfast program, whole school field trip to GSMS, Blue Jays "Girls at Bat", Yearbook contract, Worlds UnBound girls club, Principals GC-5 year contract awarded, Report Cards/PT Interviews, Living Wall, Creeker Clothing, H&amp;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.</p> <p><b><u>Upcoming Dates:</u></b>  Welcome to K Orientation, Drama Production (Aladdin Jr.) <b>June 1st</b>, Family Movie Night <b>May 26th</b>, School Spirit Theme Day, Grade 5 Orientation @ GSMS, District Track and Field Day <b>June 2nd</b>, K-2 Fun Day <b>June 7th</b>, Field Trips with</p>



most classes, Grade 5 End of year trip, Family Picnic Day **June 20th**, Grade 5 Celebration Day **June 21st**, Last day of School **June 23rd!**

**Facility and Safety Update:**

- Barriers for sidewalk area near exit of school driveway
- Hooks for backpacks upstairs (K-2) will be requested to be moved from classrooms into hallways.
- Inquire about First Aid training being offered by district during non-work hours for interested staff.
- Additional cameras on the outside of the school to be installed in blind spots.
- Lilypad project: Goal is to break ground by Summer 2023. Updates: Walking track, soccer, field re-orientation, status of grant, status of tender process

**School Improvement Update:**

- Core Leadership Team have most recently looked at results of Term 2 Achievement reports and Student Wellness Survey. This data, together with previous data review (provincial school improvement indicators, have led the group to the following major reoccurring themes:
  1. Student Connected:  
Encouraging inclusive philosophy, celebrating diversity, providing leadership opportunities, Prosocial Behaviors.
  2. Formative Assessment:  
Differentiation, variety of instruction, goal setting, and monitoring progress.
  3. Staff Collaboration:  
Move away from the distance that COVID brought to the Creek and collaborate more with your teaching partner, PLC team, FI teachers, smaller cohorts etc.

**Looking Ahead to next year:**

- Chair and Co-Chair
- Year End events
- Gr.4-5 provincial assessments
- Breakfast Program - \$9,000 grant
- Next year's wants/needs: Projector in library, Projector in gymnasium, extra cameras, BBQ, walkie-talkies
- NB Holistic Curriculum Framework next year

**8:30**

**Closing Remarks**

*Thank you for your involvement in the PSSC this year. We have appreciated your thoughtful discussion, your willingness to collaborate, your creative input and your availability. You are a wonderful group of people and the time we spend together is valued. Alex and I (Cathy) so appreciate your support this year, and welcome you to return in Fall 2023! 😊*



**Items for next meeting:**

- **See you next year!! 😊**

**Adjournment**

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**PSSC Chair**

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**Date**

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**PSSC Secretary**

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**Date**