



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

**Date: January 23rd, 2024, Time: 6:30 – 8:00
Location: Guidance Room**

<p>PSSC Members Present: Kim Sorlie (Chair) Aaron Percival (Vice Chair) Jennifer DeJong Michael Henheffer</p> <p>PSSC Members Regrets: Coral Shuai Caitlin Christie Michelle Armstrong</p>	<p>School/DEC Representation Present: Alex Yaychuk - Principal Cathy Elvin - Grade 3FI teacher Ruth Eden (DEC rep)</p> <p>School/DEC Representation Regrets:</p>
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Call to Order: Alex Yaychuk

Approval of the Agenda: Jennifer, Mike seconds

Previous meeting minutes: Jennifer, Kim seconds

6:30 – 7:10	<u>Call to Order / Introductions</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to order: Alex Yaychuk (Principal) • Greetings and introductions • We do have corium. <p>Old Business: PSSC budget: \$921.00 – Alex recaps our discussion from last week. We had decided on signage for around the school (cameras on site, replacement of damaged signs). We will also be naming the playground and having signage made for this. We were going to use funds for a donor wall, but \$2000.00 was donated from this signage company. Therefore, we no longer need the funds for this.</p> <p>French Immersion classes would like to have mindfulness/inspirational quote signage. These would be growth mindset focused.</p> <p>The committee had also discussion giving funds to our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee to help support a multicultural fair/evening. This event, unfortunately, will be post our budget, therefore not in the running for funding.</p> <p>The committee votes to use the funds on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security signage to denote “cameras on property.”



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairing signage in the parking lot. • French language posters. <p><u>All in favor: Kim, Aaron, Mike, Jennifer, Cathy</u> The motion is passed.</p> <p>Ruth mentions that for the Multicultural Fair, the PSSC budget renews April 1st and could be put towards that. Alex mentions that refurbishment of the entrance way and the wall with the creeker essentials could also be something to put future funds towards.</p> <p>DEC representative report: Ruth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naming of the <u>playground</u>: In a private session, they discussed, and all were in favor. Towards the public, the vote will happen this Thursday. • <u>George Street Middle School</u> was put forward to be replaced within the next 3-5 years. DEC discussed the general area where the new school would be. A large circle was suggested (exhibition, and behind the train station liquor store). The next step is the Minister of Education discusses with the city. • <u>Subdistrict 7</u> is looking for a Department of Education Representative. If you know anyone who lives New Maryland and beyond, contact Ruth. • <u>Excellence in Education Awards</u> are to be submitted by February 9th, 2024. Kim asks if there are other community awards that include Educational Assistants, Crossing Guards, etc. Ann Draper our crossing guard would be an excellent example of someone who deserves recognition. Alex suggests looking on the City of Fredericton website.
7:10 – 8:00	<u>Principal’s Report</u>
	<p><i>Twitter: @Gardencreekers</i></p> <p><u>Events so far:</u> 2nd round of Student Lead Clubs, Various fundraisers (bottle drive, holiday bazaar), GCGC learning sessions, Data for multiculturalism Family Survey, CREEKER behavior matrix, Data from student report cards, continued teaching of indigenous cultures, new round of interventions, PL with teaching staff (ESS connect, Short Term Intervention Plans), PL with student services team (request for service), school spirit week (end of dec), Drama cast finalized, Holiday concerts, 2nd round of creeker clothing, 2nd round of hot lunch.</p> <p>*Mike asks about replacing some of our stumps for the garden area. He offers to source these and says he’ll get in touch with Alex.</p> <p><u>Upcoming Dates:</u> Week of Wonder*, GCGC presentations (Nashwaak Watershed Association), School Spirit activities (Winterlude Week), Data from Students and Staff Surveys, Refining school goals (with PSSCs help), Core Leadership Team and Professional Learning, Continued work on CREEKER matrix, Current PLCs (by grade level teams): Applying indigenous teachings in a lesson plan and sharing, Professional Learning: upper grade</p>



levels learning more about Early Grades Literacy Assessments*, Global Play Day, Staff Appreciation Week (Feb. 12-16), Field Trips: k-5 Mactaquac Provincial Park trip (Feb. 15-16), Grade 5 FHS Musical, Grade 3 Old Government House and Beaverbrook Art Gallery.

***Week of Wonder** is a special week where teachers lead different interest groups over a 5-day period. Students were able to submit their interests and teachers will be selecting the groups they'd like to lead soon. Then, students will be polled on their top three interests and sorted into groups.

***EGLA** focuses on assessing students on the five pillars (fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, phonics, and phonemic awareness). Implemented in k-2 Prime and 1-3 French Immersion. Information sessions have started for 4-5 Immersion and 3-5 Prime.

***One dismissal time starting in Sept. 2024.** All students K-5 will be dismissed at the same time. District and schools are still in discussion of what that will look like – what does it mean for recess, physical education, instructional minutes, etc.? The district makes the decisions about educational minutes, in response to a question from **Aaron**.

School Improvement Update:

- Our school will increase Student Connectedness & Belonging for all K-5 students. This will be evident based on student wellness survey results (Gr. 4-5) reaching 80% by end of June 2025... thus resulting in improved school culture and learning environment.
- Our school will increase Student achievement scores (Lit and Num) by ___% for all k-5 students by the end of June 2024.

Alex elaborates that we are still in the process of formalizing these goals. Especially with regards to the second goal and percentages. School wide comprehensive interventions are a big component to success with regards to the second goal.

***Alex** shares a handout of the Guiding Interview Questions for Grade 2-5. These questions will be posed to random students in these grades and recorded for analysis. **Aaron** asks how many students will be polled with this survey? **Alex** responds approximately 25-35.

Core Leadership Team:

Continuing to refine goals next week, Student questionnaire results will be shared, connect to CREEKER Matrix, Sharing PSSCs suggestions (Developing k-1 home questionnaire), and digging deeper into achievement results to set Goal #2 actions.

***Alex** would also like to know from the lens of a parent, what types of questions do you think kids would understand at the k-1 level? How can you frame the questions in a clear and friendly way that will still be actionable?

***Jennifer** poses the questions, what about children from our most vulnerable families? Such as children in a not so supportive environment, ESL students who may not be able to translate the survey etc. How do we access those valuable and insightful answers.

	<p>Kim suggests that these questions could be incorporated into the breakfast club (casual conversations)? Alex also notes that surveys that do not return the survey could be highlighted to our CLT team for follow up.</p> <p>Facilities Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovations on the school roof (Summer 2024) has been approved. • Washroom renovations are still ongoing. • Gymnasium Quote was received, and the school is waiting on a second opinion. <p>Safety at the Creek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New playground in Winter – the ice on the playground is extensive. Very fun for students but discussions needed to be had about safety procedures and expectations. - Walkie Talkies were purchased that go out with duty teachers and they can communicate with each other and the office easily. - The school received a EpiPen Cabinet that will be mounted in the school like the AED box located by the gym. - Stop and Slow signs were purchased for school evacuations.
---	New Business
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alex has asked the PSSC to bring questions in the spirit of connectedness and belonging that could be asked in a clear and friendly way to K and Grade 1 students. Please consider that these questions should focus on friendships, relationships in the school, support systems, and involvement in activities. The questions should be accessible to k-1 students, written in a way that they would understand and be able to respond to. - Kindergarten Lunch: Mike brought up the kindergarten lunch where the Ks invite their parents to come to the school once a month or once bi-monthly to have lunch with them, socialize and connect.
8:00	Closing Remarks
	<p>District Website: https://asdw.nbed.ca/ <i>Motion to end the meeting: Mike</i> <i>Seconded: Jennifer</i></p>

- Items for next meeting:**
- February 27th, 2023
 - March 26th, 2023
 - April 23rd, 2023
 - May 21st, 2023

Adjournment

Kim Sorlie
PSSC Chair

January 23rd, 2024
Date

Cathy Elvin
PSSC Secretary

January 23rd, 2024
Date