



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

**Date: April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Time: 6:30 – 8:30**  
**Location: Guidance Room**

<p><b>PSSC Members Present:</b>          Aaron Percival (Vice Chair)          Michael Henheffer          Caitlin Christie          Michelle Armstrong          Kim Sorlie (Chair)          Jennifer DeJong</p> <p><b>PSSC Members Regrets:</b></p>	<p><b>School/DEC Representation Present:</b>          Alex Yaychuk - Principal          Cathy Elvin - Grade 3FI teacher          Ruth Eden (DEC rep)</p> <p><b>School/DEC Representation Regrets:</b></p>
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6:30 – 6:35	<b><u>Call to Order / Introductions</u></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We do have corium.</li> </ul> <p><b>Call to Order:</b> Kim Sorlie  <b>Approval of the Agenda:</b> Caitlin, Michelle  <b>Previous meeting minutes:</b> Michelle, Jennifer</p> <p><b><u>Old Business:</u></b>  <b>PSSC budget:</b> \$921.00 – spent on signage.</p>
7:10 – 8:00	<b><u>Principal’s Report</u></b>
	<p><i>Twitter: @Gardencreekers</i></p> <p><b>Past Month Events:</b>          Heritage Fair, Family Movie Night, Maple Syrup Tours, Record Cards and PT Interviews, Fundraising Success and Delicious Human Ice Cream Sundae Celebration, Music Festival (two 1<sup>st</sup> place awards!), Spring Raffles.</p> <p><b>What’s to Come:</b>          Disney Theme Day, Creekers Helping Creekers Bottle Drive, K-2 Field Trip to Playhouse, Volunteer Luncheon in library, Garden Creek Track and Field for Gr. 3-5 (Rain date: May 21), Kindergarten Orientation, Family Movie Night, Provincial Assessments for Gr. 4 and 5., Final PSSC Meeting of School Year!</p>



**Michael** asks if student clubs have been more accessible to students via access to staff leaders. **Alex** responds that staff have made themselves available on a sign-up schedule and students are better able to connect with them through this system.

**Core Leadership Team:**

- Goal 1: Our school will increase Student Connectedness and 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, 2024... thus resulting in improved school culture and environment.

*CLT is pleased with survey results on topic of student connectedness and belonging (87% of gr. 4-5 feel like 'they belong at Garden Creek'). Committee does not want to abandon great things that are in place to support this, however, our overall goal has evolved towards addressing disruptive behaviors, student expectations, classroom management, disruptions in the classroom, and overall student engagement in the classroom.*

- Goal 2: By end of May 2024, all k-5 students at Garden Creek School will improve achievement results collectively by 10% in a specific strand of curriculum. The specific achievement targets will be identified, monitored, and evaluated by their educators.

*Results of this goal are still in progress; however, our initial check-in appears to indicate good process within majority of classrooms. Students feel like they can have success, that they have a voice in their learning, and that their education is important to staff.*

**Provincial School Improvement Indicators** that Garden Creek School highlighted as areas needing improvement:

- High academic and behavioral expectations are held for each student. Students and families know these expectations.
- The school has a systematic, evidence-informed strategy for dealing with disruptive behavior including online behavior that negatively influences the learning environment.
- Recognition of academic and pro-social/behavioral success occurs regularly and in a personalized way that reinforces intrinsic motivation.

The committee had lots of insightful discussion about bullying and how students perceive this at Garden Creek, based on responses to the Grade 4-5 Provincial Student Survey.

- #23 – I have been bullied this year (50%) – within the last two weeks at school. Students indicated (28%) that they were targeted by online bullying.

**Suggestions for future School Improvement Plan goals:**

Starting in the fall with a goal that focuses on setting expectations (behaviors and academics) & developing strong learning environments, followed by moving into setting academic achievement goals. The philosophy being that we can not accomplish great learning without a feeling of safety being established.

Alex is looking for suggestions or feedback on where to go with these goals. Please email at [alex.yaychuk@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:alex.yaychuk@nbed.nb.ca) to provide your ideas.

6:35 – 7:10 8:00 – 9:00	<u>New Business</u>
	<p><b>DEC Update:</b> Ruth George Street Middle School design committee to convene in September.</p> <p>There is a trickle-down effect from the K-2 and 3-5 transition to one dismissal time, in that middle school has been delayed starting to 9:10. George Street Middle School and Connaught Street School are having meetings to discuss these start times, with regards to safety, part-time jobs, extracurricular activities, daycare, etc. <b>Alex</b> asks if k-2 elsewhere in the province are also affected by this. The response is that provincially the ASDW Fredericton and Oromocto middle and high schools are most affected by this. ASDE has demanded more bussing and drivers rather than change arrival times.</p> <p><b>Jennifer</b> asks about the safety of students under 12 being home or unattended on a waiting for a bus before school and how this will affect chronic absenteeism. <b>Kim</b> adds that depending on reasonable amount of risk assessment, certain students could be found competent to be at home alone before 12, but not all. <b>Michael</b> reflects on what has been said at the <i>Child and Youth Advocacy</i> office and that this is on their radar. <b>Ruth</b> comments that some daycares have been tabling closing because of the decline in cliental. <b>Aaron</b> asks about the decision and was it decided by the department of Education or the District.</p> <p><b>Aaron</b> questions the impact on parents who need to be at work for 8am, <b>Kim</b> mentions if educators are teaching later, will they want to coach or lead extracurricular activities later into the evening. <b>Ruth</b> brings up how bussing can accommodate students arriving at school all at the same time, but not accommodating them at dismissal. How can it work one way but not the other? <b>Aaron</b> asks what are we doing to solve the bussing problem into the future? <b>Michelle</b> asks if we should send a letter surrounding how information is and is not communicated regarding these changes at each level.</p> <p><i>Actionable Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ruth will report back after the meeting in Woodstock (DEC).</li> <li>- Alex will email George Street Middle School regarding change in arrival times for future Grade 6 (current Grade 5) students.</li> </ul> <p><b>Implementation Plan:</b> Building a better education system. The committee has asked to review this document by the next meeting and share their feedback.</p> <p><b>Morning Drop Off:</b> Michael presents a PowerPoint on morning traffic patterns. Initially presented is the current traffic pattern. This visual shows that parent/guardian traffic is frequently blocking access to the parking lot which slows flow of traffic. It is proposed that the bussing and parent/guardian student drop off switch so that the students are dropped off closest to the school and bussing drops off further away, closer to the parking lot. This will increase the number of cars able to unload at a time as well as decrease the possibility of blocking the entrance to the driveway and parking lot.</p>

	<p><b>Kim</b> suggests a kiss and drop model, where there are more teachers are available to extract students from the car. In this model, students could only exit the vehicle from the right-hand side and parents/guardian do not exit the car. Students should be unbuckled and able to leave the car, but an adult meets them and guides them to the sidewalk, so that cars can leave immediately rather than waiting for the whole row. <b>Aaron</b> inquires about dropping off students at the top of the hill, but <b>Michelle</b> reminds that students switch busses. <b>Michael</b> relays that next year with the middle school late arrival time, there will not be students switching bussing. <b>Ruth</b> reminds that with this model parents would now have to wait for busses to unload, which could impact their commute and impatience. <b>Alex</b> brings up the point that our parking lot gets very congested already and students crossing without a teacher to help would create worry.</p> <p><b>Instructional Minutes:</b>          The PSSC requested a comparison of instructional minute changes with regards to the k-2-day extension. When comparing the two documents, the largest change is an additional column called “additional minutes”. This column suggests that on average an extra 230 minutes are up to the discretion of the Administrator. Depending on the school schedule, these additional minutes will be allocated appropriately. <b>Alex</b> would like to inform returning PSSC members in the fall how these additional instructional minutes are being used throughout the school, if not before. <b>Kim</b> questions if there will be accountability for how these new instructional minutes are being used and will they be compared provincially and nationally?</p> <p><b>Aaron</b> asks again what are we achieving with this additional 90 minutes? What is the purpose of extending the day and how will success be measured?</p>
9:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b>
	<p><b>District Website:</b> <a href="https://asdw.nbed.ca/">https://asdw.nbed.ca/</a>  <i>Motion to end the meeting:</i>  <i>Seconded:</i></p>

**Items for next meeting:**

- **May 28th, 2023**

**Adjournment**

**Kim Sorlie**  
**PSSC Chair**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**  
**Date**

**Cathy Elvin**  
**PSSC Royal Scribe**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**  
**Date**