



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

**Date: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Time: 6:30 – 8:30  
Location: Cathy Elvin’s Room 133**

<p><b>PSSC Members Present:</b> Kim Sorlie (Chair) Aaron Percival (Vice Chair) Michael Henheffer Marcia Franklin (H&amp;S Rep) Michelle Armstrong 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 – 6:40	<b><u>Call to Order / Introductions</u></b>
	<p><b>Voting for new chair and vice chair.</b> <i>Kim continues to be the CHAIR for all meetings.</i> <i>Aaron continues to be the VICE CHAIR for all meetings.</i></p> <p><b>Introductions (round table)</b> and life updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We do have corium.</li> </ul> <p><b>Call to Order:</b> Alex Yaychuk <b>Approval of the Agenda:</b> Cathy Elvin <b>Previous meeting minutes:</b> none.</p> <p><b><u>Old Business:</u></b> <b>PSSC budget:</b> \$1000.00</p>
7:20 – 8:15	<b><u>Principal’s Report</u></b>
	<p><b>Roles of the PSSC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preserving and promoting the language and culture of the community.</li> <li>- Developing or revising the School Mission Statement.</li> <li>- Establishing school policies related to education, language and culture.</li> <li>- Encouraging family involvement in the school.</li> <li>- Establishing partnerships with the community.</li> <li>- Developing a school climate and conditions to improve the quality of learning and teaching in the school.</li> <li>- Improving school property.</li> </ul>



- Providing input into the hiring of the Principal and Vice-Principal(s).
- Reviewing student achievement data and consulting on school plans.
- Communicating with the DEC or PSSC matters.

**Limitations of the PSSC:**

- Teacher and Staff issues: PSSCs are not involved in the hiring or evaluating of teaching staff.
- Individual student behavior or academic issues: individual student issues are not the responsibility of the PSSC.
- Day-to-day operations: The PSSC does not manage day-to-day operations which are the responsibility of the principal.
- Fundraisers: Individual members may participate and support the activities of the students or the Home and School Association, but the PSSC does not use their time or resources for fundraising.

**Alex** shares some numbers regarding the school profile. There are 313 students currently enrolled, 130 English Prime and 183 French Immersion. There are 10 French Immersion classes and 7 Prime English classes. Garden Creek School continues to have an Academic Support Teacher for Literacy and Numeracy, an English Additional Language tutor, a Behavior Intervention Mentor, 9 Educational Assistances, a Music Teacher, 2 Physical Education Specialists, a Librarian, 3 EST-Resource, a Guidance Counselor, a Vice-Principal, and 2 admin assistances. The school also has 3 custodians and a crossing guard. **The priority this year for Administration is “Kids first” attitude.**

**Priorities for Teachers:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> impressions as opportunities to engage and hook learners.
- Building routines and setting expectations.
- Positive relationships with students/families.
- Comprehensive approach to supporting learning gaps.

**Past Month Events:**

Breakfast program, hot lunch beginning, Meet the Teacher and Family BBQ, welcome assembly – whole school Terry Fox Challenge and Walk, Cross Country, Safety Drills, field trips.

**What’s to Come:**

Fundraising (Home and School), Lily Pad Project Phase 2, Movie Nights, Spooktacular, Holiday Bazaar, Continued Safety Drills, Student-led clubs, Guest Speakers/Assemblies, Truth and Reconciliation Day, Provincial Assessments, School Spirit Activities.

**Core Leadership Team:**

1. Goal 1: Minimizing classroom student disruptions by \_\_%. CLT have discussed creating K-5 student expectations, sharing effective classroom management strategies, and engaging our students beginning on the first day of school.

*Goal 1 has evolved from last year’s student connectedness goal.*



	<p>2. Academic Achievement goal(s), based on improved pre-assessments, beginning in January and continuing into June. Each class/teacher will develop their own goal with Term 1 RC results in mind.</p> <p><i>Goal 2 will build upon the successful model we used in the Spring of 2024. Specific targets will be established following the 1<sup>st</sup> reporting period.</i></p> <p><b>Kim</b> has a question about the <i>Holistic Curriculum Math</i> component not being ready to launch, therefore teachers have returned to the prioritized curriculum. <b>Kim</b> asks if there are gaps between both curriculums and how those are affecting learners? <b>Alex</b> responds that the week before students return, district had a province wide Professional Learning session for K-5 teachers addressing the differences. Also, our district numeracy lead Sandra Melanson will be in the school to support teachers and students with identified gaps. The AST can also assist with English Prime students who are identified at the beginning of the year for intervention. It is mentioned that with the election coming up and possible changes on the horizon, that this is something for the PSSC to be aware of. Advocacy for the professional development of teachers to accompany the new expectations (assessment, curriculum, teaching methods) would be amazing.</p> <p><b>Committees aiming to enhance the Creeker experience:</b> Equity Committee, Spruce Up Committee, Core Leadership Team, Workplace Health and Safety, Teacher Working Conditions Fund, Virtual Announcements, Creeker Leaders, School Spirit Committee, Outdoor Learning Committee, Technology Committee, etc.</p> <p><b>Safety at the Creek:</b> Garden Creek School has implemented a new student morning arrival plan – 2 lanes for families, bussing section further from the school. Dismissal allows for all students to access busses closest to the school and after school program pickup in the bussing lane.</p>
<p>6:40 – 7:20 8:30 – 8:45</p>	<p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p>
	<p><b>DEC Update:</b> Ruth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DEC meetings are all in Fredericton except for one in St. Mary’s (Edmundson) this year. Garden Creek may be up for refurbishment, but this is a long-term plan. This is in consideration with a potential consolidation of two schools (GCS and KCS).</li> <li>- George Street Middle School is still in the plan to be replaced in the next 5 years. They are not decided yet on location (Exhibition Grounds) but there is a new Board. The deign committee is postponed until the government is elected (November).</li> <li>- <b>Aaron</b> asks if the DEC is preparing itself for either outcome of the election? Essentially a BLUE binder and a RED binder in the language that aligns with the platform of the elected officials. <b>Ruth</b> responds that no, this is not in place, but she will email her chair about this type of strategy.</li> </ul>



**Instructional Minutes:** 3-5 instructional minutes (lost) will be addressed through the Principal's Report (forthcoming). While the day is extended for K-2, the day is shortened for 3-5. How does that impact learning? **Alex** responds that rather than adhering to the maximum number of instructional minutes, schools in Fredericton and Oromocto areas are adopting instructional minutes within the range of expected minutes to accommodate bussing schedules and shortage of drivers. The school is also maximizing learning time by condensing learning between 8:10-2:30, while adhering to the 35-minute preparation time allowance for Teachers (through the Collective Agreement). There is minimal flextime or transition in the scheduling of the GCS day, therefore recess had to be limited. Specialist teachers have agreed to pickup and return students from classrooms that have Gym or Music pre- or post-recess. **Aaron** says that all this circles back to Transportation and wants to know what the Board is doing to alleviate the problem? **Ruth** answers that Bus Drivers get 5hrs a day according to their contract which is where it starts, and things need to progress for there. The district needs 18 physical busses and drivers to address the issues in Fredericton and Oromocto. **Mike** mentioned that last year a district (ASD-E) asked what would be required to keep their scheduling the same, but **Ruth** does not know the outcome. The Wednesday/Friday Half-Days are under discussion but are contracted through the Treasury Board of NB.

**Entry upon arrival each morning:** Learning is to commence at 8:10am every morning and busses only arrive between 7:55-8:05. This leaves a very small window for students to prepare for their morning, to have breakfast, and to be settled into their classrooms. There will be an option to have students enter the gym in the morning to burn some energy, maybe not every day but several times a week. Some schools have allocated duty time earlier than the "report to work" time and that is a potential option for Garden Creek School. For the moment, activity time in the gym is priority. **Kim** mentions that in the past the early morning outdoor recess has been an incentive to encourage children to get to school on time. Several parents have expressed their concerns about this missing block of physical activity. She follows up by asking if parents/guardians can volunteer to supervise during this time, rather than having to add supervision time to teachers. **Alex** acknowledges that the "soft start" to the morning has been successful in that there is less conflict coupled with quieter activities, and more predictable routines.

With regards to **bussing**, **Aaron** mentions that there have been inconsistencies with the bussing schedule. **Jennifer** adds that with the cancelled busses (busses that don't run) the morning of it becomes very hard to plan. It would be a difficult year to try to correct chronic absenteeism because of the intermittent lack of service. **Ruth** comments about there being 2 stops per 1km and there are different mapping/tracking plans through Department of Transportation. **Ruth** asks about busses being late arriving to our school in the morning, beyond the agreed upon 7:50 time. She made note of this. **Aaron** also mentioned that there are smaller students at the bus stop who have missed the bus before school and are unsupervised. **Alex** makes note of this with regards to the safety of these children and what is the expectation of bus drivers reporting unsupervised kids at stops.

**Updates from the Superintendent:** PSSC Budget effective this year the budget has been reworked with regards to how funds are allotted and how they can be spent. The

	council will only stipulate items that CANNOT be purchased through the budget and that items must adhere to the policy regulations. The budget must be spent by <b>March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b> . The policy states that the funds spent should ideally align with the School Improvement Plan. Effective Thursday, September 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2024, there is now the opportunity to have a PSSC composed of more or less than 6-12 members. It requires the principal to communicate the reasoning behind the adjustment.
<b>9:00</b>	<b><u>Closing Remarks</u></b>
	<b>District Website:</b> <a href="https://asdw.nbed.ca/">https://asdw.nbed.ca/</a> <i>Motion to end the meeting: Michelle</i> <i>Seconded: Kim</i>

**Items for next meeting:**

- **October 29<sup>th</sup>**
- **November 26<sup>th</sup>**
- **January 28<sup>th</sup>**
- **February 25<sup>th</sup>**
- **March 25<sup>th</sup>**
- **April 29<sup>th</sup>**
- **May 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Adjournment**

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

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

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