



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

**Date: October 29th, 2024, Time: 6:30 – 8:30
Location: Cathy Elvin’s Room 133**

<p>PSSC Members Present: Kim Sorlie (Chair) Aaron Percival (Vice Chair) Marcia Franklin (H&S Rep) Jennifer DeJong Michael Henheffer</p> <p>PSSC Members Regrets: 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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6:30 – 6:40	<u>Call to Order / Introductions</u>
	<p>Voting for new chair and vice chair. <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>Introductions (round table) and life updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do have corum. <p>Call to Order: Kim Sorlie Approval of the Agenda: Cathy Elvin, seconded Kim Sorlie Previous meeting minutes: Kim Sorlie, Ruth Eden</p> <p>Old Business: PSSC budget: \$1000.00 Rather than stipulate on what the funds can be spent on, which was the past practice, current direction is that PSSC funds cannot be spent on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gifts (gift cards, gift certifications) - Flowers - Alcoholic beverages - Hiring of casual staff - Donations to outside organizations <p>It is understood that any purchases also need to meet the direction of legislation and policy and be purchased through appropriate channels. The principal provides a report to the PSSC on the budget and spending twice a year. Funds not expended by 31 March of the school year will revert to the general operating line in the district budget. Lastly,</p>



the focus of expenses by a PSSC, while allowing for remuneration of expenses to conduct meetings, should be on how to assist the implementation of the school plan.

7:45 – 8:35 **Principal’s Report**

Past Month Events:
Afterschool ESTEY Art, new rounds of interventions, Truth and Reconciliation Reflection, Magic Show, Fundraisers (soup, coffee), Book Fair, Movie Night, World Drumming Lessons, School Safety Week, School-wide Safety Challenge, Creeker Behavior Matrix.

What’s to Come:
Spooktacular, Remembrance Day Ceremony, Diversity/Inclusion/Respect presentations for 3-5, Holiday Bazaar, PL days (FASD training, School Improvement, Year 2 of Indigenous teachings at GC), Report Card Prep Day, School Spirit CREEKERS assembly, Family Survey (Equity Committee), and Creekers Helping Creekers bottle drive, Student Clubs at lunch hour.

Core Leadership Team:
The Core Leadership Team learned more about PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) from a learning specialist who presented. They reviewed data from student and staff surveys on student disruption. They also conducted a self-assessment survey on our school’s needs. The CL team created a plan for upcoming whole staff PL on November 5th.

*According to student perception data *Gr. 4-5 2023-2024, almost 80% claimed that “it was hard to pay attention because of students interrupting the class”. According to teaching staff perception survey data in 2023-2024, student disruptions in the classroom were identified as causing a significant loss of learning time 50% of the time.*

- 1. Goal 1: Minimizing classroom student disruptions by **12.5%** 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.*

How will we measure this goal?

- Fewer office referrals
- A reduction in staff perception survey results (school-made survey conducted)
- A reduction in student perception survey results (school-made survey conducted)
- Students in gr. 4-5 will identify high rates of belonging and connection to their school.

Jennifer asks where parents and guardians fit into the process? **Alex** responds that the pyramid of intervention at tier 1 should address the needs of 75% of students. Tier 2 represents the 15% of students that need differentiated instruction/lessons. Tier 3 represents the 5-10% of students that need individualized plans. Currently the Tier 1 is in development (3-year program) but the eventual goal is to have common language shared with families – where you a safe Creeker today/a respectful Creeker today? Families become an important part of PBIS being successful. It is a very collaborative process that will eventually include newsletters and celebrations to families. **Kim** asks



	<p>how students will be supported through the process with understanding the expectations? Alex responds that PBIS is evidence-based, collaborative, and positive. It improves social emotional competence, academic success, and school climate. All staff will be trained and supported during this process and students will be engaged through whole school assemblies and activities.</p> <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. <i>Goal 2 will build upon the successful model we used in the Spring of 2024. Specific targets will be established following the 1st reporting period.</i></p> <p>Facilities Updates: Kitchen upgrade approval (breakfast kitchen downstairs needs some electrical upgrades), upper field play structure to be removed (approved, should happen soon), mural to be painted in East Stairwell, Hallway Movement/Sensory Pathways.</p>
<p>6:40 – 7:45</p>	<p><u>New Business</u></p>
	<p><u>DEC Update:</u> Ruth Eden</p> <p>Flags: Someone suggested we standardize all the flags in all the school’s province – Canadian, New Brunswick, and Wolastoquey flag. Jennifer suggests that we take all the money for the flags and put it towards school bussing. But Ruth says the money pot is not large enough. Jennifer suggests that the money be used to bolster the breakfast programs. Aaron asks what prompted this discussion? Ruth replies that this motion was made to incorporate all flags of our nation to build an inclusive sense of community. Kim suggests doing something like hanging flags of all students’ countries in the gym, which has been done in other schools. The budget for this would be \$300,000. The committee suggests going back to the drawing board to generate better uses for those funds.</p> <p>District Offices: District Offices will be moving from Fredericton High School and Priestman locations to an office building in the Knowledge Park area. This move has been postponed until January.</p> <p>George Street Middle School reconstruction: The design and planning committees have begun to meet. Jennifer asks about blueprints and Ruth speaks to how a school is designed based on population. For example, with 750 students the specifications will allow for 3 gyms. In June, the specifications were approved for Forest Hill and Liverpool, and they are available for viewing online. Once the planning has begun for George Street Middle School, these specifications will be available online as well. Ruth talked about biofuel (woodchips) heating at the newer schools. The committee discussed tempered air, which is AC adjacent, as well as other environmentally friendly options for heating/cooling schools. Where will the school go? One of the locations is no longer available, so the committee</p>



is still generating locations for the build. This has been put forward as an issue for the Minister of Education to address and oversee.

Garden Creek School is also discussed – how do the school central air systems get upgraded? Currently, the school has no ventilation, except the ability to open the windows. The schools that are hosting the DEC meetings this year are on a list to be refurbished, which is why they are being visited. **Jennifer** raises the issue of putting more money into the playground (phase 2) when Garden Creek could potentially be closed/moved in 5-10 years because of population growth/needs to refurbish. **Alex** asks about the apartments on Duncan Lane and what that would add to our population? **Michael** believes that it will add 950 homes in ten years, but some apartments will be ready in the spring.

Bussing:

There is a public consultation to happen starting in November overseen by Porter O'Brien (Consultation Firm). They want to have this done before Christmas. 13 new casual staff will be starting training in November. The government is going to pay for training once they complete the training and get licensed. The licensing process causes issues because there is a wait for these (could be months). If a casual driver wants to become permanent, there is a long process (years) that must be followed, under contract. There are 12 buses on order, and they are coming but the district is unsure when. The district is offering a permanent pay, but not a permanent route, in hopes that it will solve the driver shortage. **Jennifer** voices that the consultation is important to bring awareness to the issue of bussing and the ripple effect that is caused throughout the district.

Aaron comments that adding more routes and assigning those drivers would be more of a solution to the immediate problem of cancelled busses. **Aaron** wonders why there must be consultation at all – are there not people on the board of Education or at the district who could solve these problems, without spending money? The committee has a brief conversation about instructional minutes and the impacts that it has on our local schools. Also, Wednesday “half-days” are part of the problem, and to get rid of this long-standing issue, there must be public consultation before it can go to court.

Absenteeism:

When considering bus cancellations and the correlation with chronic absenteeism, there are glaring connections. It causes safety issues as well with younger students who may miss a bus or wait for a bus that never comes. Overall, across the district, schools have a 9% rate of absenteeism.

The next DEC meeting is **November 21st, at Barker's Point**. The agenda is released the week before.

Home and School Update: Marcia Franklin

November will be a very busy month, with the Bazaar coming on November 30th.

Jennifer comments that there is a lot of fundraising happening (soup, coffee, bazaar, baskets etc.) at once. Maybe just focus on the Bazaar in the Fall months, and then



	<p>spread out the events year-round? Great feedback on the Jibbets (Croc shoe accessories). H&S is planning to have some feedback surveys go out to families this year, to generate more opinions.</p> <p>Jennifer asks about the intentions for the funding – the school already has a beautiful playground, so now what is the fundraising money going towards? Is it all going towards “phase two” of the Lilypad Project, or something else? Marcia says that there is communication coming so that the allocation of money raised can be celebrated.</p> <p>Jennifer also highlights multi-tiered fundraising as problematic for families who want to participate but are low-income families. Alex clarifies that while there will be funding to go towards Phase 2 (pickleball, multi-sport field, gazebo/shaded areas etc.), money also goes towards classroom needs, and other projects. He adds that all fundraising efforts always communicate where the money is going towards.</p>
9:00	<u>Closing Remarks</u>
	<p>District Website: https://asdw.nbed.ca/ <i>Motion to end the meeting: Kim Sorlie</i> <i>Seconded: Aaron Percival</i></p>

Items for next meeting:

- **November 26th**
- **January 28th**
- **February 25th**
- **March 25th**
- **April 29th**
- **May 27th**

Adjournment

Kim Sorlie
PSSC Chair

October, 29th, 2024
Date

Cathy Elvin
PSSC Royal Scribe

October 29th, 2024
Date