



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

Date: April 29th, 2025 – 6:30 – 8:30

Location: Garden Creek School

PSSC Members Present: Marcia Franklin (H&S Rep) Jennifer DeJong Michelle Armstrong Aaron Percival (Vice Chair) Michael Henheffer Kim Sorlie (Chair) PSSC Members Regrets:	School/DEC Representation Present: Alex Yaychuk - Principal Cathy Elvin - Grade 3FI teacher Ruth Eden (DEC rep) School/DEC Representation Regrets:
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6:30 - 7:00	<u>Call to Order / Introductions</u>
	<p>Call to Order: Kim Sorlie Approval of the Agenda: Aaron Percival Previous meeting minutes: Amendment to last month's minutes – The date should be changed to March 25th.</p> <p><u>Old Business:</u></p> <p>Public Consultations: Since the NDA was still in effect at the last meeting, the committee moved to discuss this in further detail. Kim gives an overview of the stakeholders meeting. Mike inquires about when students will be able to enter the building. Alex responds that the school will announce this over the summer, once details have been finalized. Some schools are on a tight timeline (bus) while others are not, so all schools will have differing opening times. Transition times with regards to outside time prior to coming into school are mentioned and discussed. Garden Creek School is hoping that there will be more outdoor time going forward. Jennifer reflects that at the beginning of the year staff were excited to receive students immediately into the school. Now, staff would prefer to have outdoor time combined with a soft entry into the school. Aaron asks about the instructional minutes and Alex relays that they are not able to share these yet. Ruth shares that instructional minutes and bus arrival times are supposed to be completed in the next couple weeks.</p> <p>There was discussion about the budget for consultation (\$60,000) and a discovery has been submitted. The PSSC will discuss the results of this discovery at the next PSSC meeting, if documents are procured.</p>



7:00 – 7:45	<u>Principal's Report</u>
	<p>Past Month Events: Family Movie Night, Theme Days, GC representation at Digital Learning Summit, Creeker Assembly (cooperation), Snapology afterschool program, UNB Science afterschool program, Poem in your Pocket Thursday, Collaboration Day (PBIS – all staff), Diabetes training, Music Festival (k-2, and 3-5), Report Cards and Parent Teacher, Heritage Fair, STEAM Fair, CREEKERS assembly (effort), Gr. 4-5 Provincial Assessment, Academic Achievement Goals, French Café, Undercover Spirit Week.</p> <p>What's to Come: Volunteer Luncheon, School Behavior Goals (working towards 1500 Creeker Cards), Family Movie Night (Grade 5 night), Provincial Assessments, Jays at Bat afterschool program (3-5 girls), Council Day of learning for NBTf members, Field Trips, Track and Field (gr, 3-5) and Field Day (k-2), Drama Performances (Moana), Family Picnic Day, Gr. 5 Celebrations, Staffing.</p> <p>PSSC Budget: \$1,000 spent on micro bit batteries, stickers (branded) for students and staff, and items to promote school PBIS goals.</p> <p>School Plan Update: Students have been working on expectations at school in the classroom, in the washrooms, in the playground, in the hallways, and with technology. School bus expectations will be the final piece of this before the end of the year. The school has a new behavior tracking system for the playground that they are piloting. Jennifer comments that students may not have the SEL skills (emotional regulation, compromising skills, communication skills, etc.) to address playground issues. Addressing these social skills, and high stress environments, at a young age is important to foundational skills.</p> <p>All teaching staff continue to work on their academic achievement goals. We hope to achieve a collective rate of improvement of 15% across the entire teaching staff. For instance, during a movie night, parents could attend a session and develop themselves.</p> <p><i>Considerations for next year:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social connectedness and connection to peers and adults.• Student engagement in their learning, feeling sufficiently challenged.• Teachers check in and allow them to share their learning.• We may need to add some SEL/Engagement to the SIP in the fall. <p><i>Whole staff reflection/discussion/survey before the end of the year:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiatives of this year and how it went• Feedback on how or what they would like to see for the future.• Share themes from student wellness data.• Celebrate the achievements we have made this year! <p>Workshops for parents to develop skills for addressing technology, self-regulation, communication, etc. would be something to discuss for the next PSSC budget. Jennifer asks</p>



	<p>about the results from the Tell Them from Me (gr 4 and 5) surveys with regards to wellness. She would love to look at these results with the committee in the fall.</p> <p>Facilities Update: Lower floor bathroom upgrade was denied, and this project will have to go to capital improvement. Therefore, the plan to switch k-2 and 3-5 grade levels is unlikely this year. The Lilypad Project Phase 2 received a 20k donation towards their goal. The goal is 80k by 2026 but the school is only \$23,750 away from their goal. This goal doesn't account for the most recent home and school fundraising. The kitchen upgrade is still happening and has not been affected by budget cuts, as it is funded through grant money.</p>
7:45 – 8:15	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>New Business</u></p>
	<p><u>Final Meeting:</u> The committee will meet for supper for the final meeting. Sam Sneads is the consensus. The date remains the same, May 27th, at 7:00pm.</p> <p><u>Education Budget Cut (\$43 mill) affecting ASD-W (\$9.3mill):</u> 70 staff were laid off, a number of these (in the twenties) were Library Workers. These staff included Educational Assistants, Administrative Assistants, etc. Alex explains the layoff day for CUPE staff for the 2025-2026 year. Ruth clarifies that Library Worker positions have been cut now and will not be returning in future. Marcia reminds the committee that Library Workers have the discretion to have Storytime and lead thematic read-alouds. What does this look like at the middle and high school levels? Aaron asks about the department staff being laid off versus staff in schools. Ruth will investigate this issue with DEC and will get clarification on how libraries in schools will go forward and what the PSSC can do to support. Alex clarifies that the library will still be used but that routines and organization will be clarified as we move forward. Aaron proposes a two-paragraph email to the Minister of Education containing our concerns regarding the cuts to Education and how they will affect the students. This email would contain concerns about EAs, supplies, support workers, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Watch and Wait - unanimous</i>• <i>Letter to the Minister of Education - 0</i> <p><u>DEC Update:</u> Ruth Eden</p> <p>District Education Council Symposium: May 30th and 31st - Aaron and Ruth are going – “the chosen ones”. He will discuss this via email following our last meeting.</p> <p>Flag Poles: The flag poles will be installed over the summer.</p> <p><u>Home and School Update:</u> Marcia Franklin Family Movie Night (April) was low attendance, but Home and School still managed to make \$500. There will be one more Movie Night to support the end of the year Grade 5 trip during May. Stickers and Jibbets will be available for the last time this year. This year was a very successful fundraising year for the committee. Together, the Scotts and LunchBox fundraisers made over \$1100. During the fall, Soup <u>or</u> Coffee will be the focus fundraiser. The Home and School committee has committed upwards of \$21,000 to the Lilypad Legacy Playground Project.</p>



8:30	<u>Closing Remarks</u>
	District Website: https://asdw.nbed.ca/ <i>Motion to end the meeting: Michael</i> <i>Seconded: Kim</i>

Items for next meeting:

- May 27th

Adjournment

Kim Sorlie
PSSC Chair

April 29th , 2025
Date

Cathy Elvin
PSSC Royal Scribe

April 29th , 2025
Date