



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

Date: September 23rd, 2025, Time: 6:30 – 8:30
Location: Mme Elvin's Room

PSSC Members Present: Kim Sorlie (Chair) Aaron Percival (Co-Chair) Michael Henheffer Michelle Armstrong Rachel Dong Alexa Christie Marcia Franklin Jennifer DeJong 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 – 6:35	<u>Call to Order / Introductions</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do have corium. <p>Call to Order: <u>Kim Sorlie</u> Approval of the Agenda: Previous meeting minutes: <u>none</u></p> <p>Housekeeping: <u>Chair:</u> Kim Sorlie (Kim motioned, Michelle seconded) <u>Co-Chair:</u> Aaron Percival (Marcia motioned, Michelle seconded) <u>Secretary (Royal Scribe):</u> AI Scribe Caretaker will be Cathy Elvin. A small discussion ensued about using AI going forward to write minutes. Michael has offered to help with this.</p> <p>Old Business: PSSC budget: \$1000.00</p>
6:35 – 7:50	<u>Principal's Report</u>
	<p><i>Twitter:</i> @Gardencreekers</p> <p>Introduction to PSSC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserving and promoting the language and culture of the community Developing or revising the School Mission Statement

- Establishing school policies related to education, language, and culture
- Encouraging family involvement in the school
- Establishing partnerships with the community
- Developing a school climate and conditions to improve the quality of learning and teaching in the school
- Improving school property
- 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 on PSSC matters

****The principal is not a member of the PSSC – Can not vote. Works with the Chair to set the agenda, seeks input, etc.**

- **Alex** reviews the roles of the Chair and Co-Chair, as well as the Members.
- **Alex** reviews the Limitations of the PSSC.

School Profile:

- 325 students enrolled
- 147 English Prime
- 178 French Immersion
- 17 classrooms (homerooms)
- 1 Academic Support Teacher (Kim Mertens) for Numeracy and Literacy
- 1 English as an Additional Language tutor
- 1 Behavior Intervention Mentor
- 13 Educational Assistances (possibly 14)
- 1 Music, 2 Physical Education, 1 Librarian, 3 Resource, 1 Guidance, and 1 Vice Principal
- 2 Administrative Assistants
- 3 Custodians and 1 Crossing Guard

Alex discusses a “typical day at the Creek”, including bell schedules, instructional minutes (1625 minutes/week), specialists, and bussing arrival and departure times.

Aaron wonders how gaining Wednesday afternoons has impacted the instructional minutes (in a positive way). **Alex** clarifies that students have gained instructional time because of the added afternoon, but also transitional times before and after recess and lunch times.

- The priority for Administration has been to “remove the weeds” for the educators so that growth can occur.
- The priorities for teachers have been engaging learners with FUN, building routines and setting expectations, building positive relationships with students and families, comprehensive approaches to supporting learning gaps, and monitoring behaviors and providing early support.

Past Month Events:

Breakfast program, Meet the Teacher and Family BBQ, Welcome Assembly, Whole school Terry Fox Walk, Cross Country meet at NMES, Blues in Schools Assembly, Safety Drills, Field Trips, New additions to the playground.

What's to Come:

Movie Nights! Spooktacular, Holiday Bazaar, Ctd. Safety Drills, Student-led clubs, CREEKER assemblies, Truth and Reconciliation, Hot Lunch to begin.

Core Leadership Team:

- Goal 1: Minimizing classroom student disruptions. "Supporting expected behaviors flowchart", sharing effective classroom management strategies, internal process for tracking behaviors, and varying instruction/assessment.
- Goal 2: Academic Achievement goal(s), based on improved pre-assessments, beginning in January and continuing into June.

Safety:

- New playground structures have necessitated some new considerations.
- Student morning arrival: 2 lanes for families, bus section further from school
- Student afternoon dismissal: 3 school busses, 3 after school care centers

Discussion of Assessment Data

Questions from PSSC:

1. *Where does Garden Creek School rank provincially with Provincial Assessment Results?*
2. *What factors possibly impact on our results?*

Alex presented assessment data from the district website, covering English Reading, Scientific Literacy, Mathematics, and FEL Reading (Early French Immersion). Mathematics was highlighted, with Garden Creek achieving a 54.7% success rate in the "Appropriate and Above" category. **Alex** noted a recent increase in Newcomer students at Garden Creek. He clarified that students with English proficiency above A1 are not exempt from the assessments, which may impact overall results. **Jennifer** inquired about the decline in English Reading scores—from 80% to 65.5%. Aaron requested clarification on the term "Appropriate and Above." **Alex** explained that, in Mathematics, results are based on four assessed strands, so outcomes can vary depending on performance across each strand. **Ruth** added that even schools without Newcomers or language barriers are experiencing similar declines in scores. **Jennifer** questions why French Immersion students learn Math and Science in French but then are tested in English for the Provincial Assessment.

Possible factors impacting our results:

- Ability levels change every year
- Language Learners (A1) Exemptions – all others are not considered 0 We have had a continued steady rise in Newcomer student population.
- The new program of Science of Reading was piloted 4 years ago, and these students are now in Grade 4 (increased literacy rates).
- Only 3 days to implement provincial assessments vs. 2 weeks in previous years – this impacts the numbers of students not in attendance which negatively impacts overall scores.

Next Steps:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Requested District PL for the new curriculum, AST being trained for Math Screener, Gr. 3-5 targeted focus on Numbers and Shape and Space strands, Engaging Core Leadership Team in Data Walk. <p>Holistic Curriculum (Math):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">What changes were made from the original curriculum outcomes, the prioritized numeracy curriculum, and the current holistic curriculum. <p>Busing Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>When are the busses supposed to arrive to Garden Creek in order to be “on time”?</i> 8:07am<i>When a bus is late is it communicated with the district?</i> Yes, we do alert the district team if students arrive late to school. To date, we have been told to expect some delays due to construction at Patience Lane (roundabout).What are the protocols that happen when a bus is late for the school day?
7:50 – 8:25	<u>New Business</u>
	<p>DEC Update: Ruth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Long term education plan – there is a survey circulating right now, and there will be a public (in-person) consultation forum happening in the future.Garden Creek and Kingsclear Consolidated School will be reviewed by an external consultation firm (fact finding mission) for sustainability and the report will be available in January.DEC election will be happening in May and will most likely not be reviewed within the first year of the formation of the new DEC. <p>Kim asked about the proposal for housing and school development in the NB Exhibition zone, after the recent news development. Ruth cannot comment on this at this time, as the information is still developing. Currently, there are no situations, scenarios, or decisions being made.</p> <p>News article: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/city-expropriate-nbex-grounds-1.7640793</p> <p>Marcia - <u>Home and School update:</u> \$24,795.80 was raised last year through the Home and School committee. The first movie night will be October 17th. The Bazaar will be November 29th this year.</p> <p>Aaron had a meeting with Susan Holt (Premier of NB) and received a letter from the Minister of Education (Claire Johnson) clarifying the investment of 210 million and the redistribution of 9 million per district. He summarized these for the committee regarding the redistribution of the budgets, especially in ASD-W. Michael and Ruth comments that the 210 million was earmarked for Educational Assistants and adding support to school.</p> <p>Aaron asks about our Breakfast Program and how the announcement from Susan Holt regarding funding has affected Garden Creek School. Alex responds that our Breakfast Program is fully funded through FeedNB Depot out of Moncton. The lunch program</p>

	funding (provincially) was deferred to next year, as the infrastructure cannot support this program (currently).
8:25	<u>Closing Remarks</u>
	District Website: https://asdw.nbed.ca/ <i>Motion to end the meeting:</i> <u>Cathy</u> <i>Seconded:</i> <u>Kim</u>

Dates for the next meeting:

- **October 28th**
- **November 25th**
- **January 27th**
- **February 24th**
- **March 31st**
- **April 28th**
- **May 26th**

All meetings are at 6:30pm.

Topics for the next meeting:

- Student perception surveys
- Spending the PSSC budget

Adjournment

Kim Sorlie
PSSC Chair

Cathy Elvin
PSSC Royal Scribe

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