



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

Date: October 8th, 2026, Time: 6:30 – 8:30
Location: Mme Elvin's Room

PSSC Members Present: Kim Sorlie (Chair) Aaron Percival (Co-Chair) Lindsay Bowman Sarah Wood Marcia Franklin (Home and School Rep) Seljan Gryphon Ada Oloror 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 – 6:50	<u>Call to Order / Introductions</u>
	- We do have corium. - Introductions Call to Order: <u>Alex Yaychuk</u> Approval of the Agenda: <u>Cathy (move), Michelle (seconded)</u> Previous meeting minutes: <u>none</u> Housekeeping: <u>Chair:</u> Kim Sorlie (quorum) <u>Co-Chair:</u> Aaron Percival (quorum) <u>Secretary (Royal Scribe):</u> Cathy Elvin (quorum) <u>Home and School Rep:</u> Marcia Franklin Old Business: PSSC budget: \$1000.00
6:50 – 7:40	<u>Principal's Report</u>
	<i>Instagram: @gardencreekelementary</i> There was discussion on changing both the January and February dates for PSSC meetings as they conflict with DEC meetings. Alex will review the dates and suggest alternate dates. Introduction to PSSC: - 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:

- 338 students enrolled
- 153 English Prime
- 185 French Immersion
- 18 classrooms (homerooms)
- 1 Academic Support Teacher (Kim Mertens) for Numeracy and Literacy
- 1 English as an Additional Language tutor
- 1 Behavior Intervention Mentor
- 18 Educational Assistants (increased from 15)
- 1 Music, 2 Physical Education, 3.5 Resource, 1 Guidance, and 1 Vice Principal
- 2 Administrative Assistants
- 3 Custodians and 1 Crossing Guard

Alex discusses what a “typical day at the Creek” looks like, including bell schedule, lunch and recess allotment. This results in 1625 instructional minutes/week. All students receive 2 music classes and 2 physical education classes per week.

There is some discussion about transportation before and after school and how that affects bell schedules. Topics discussed are how transportation is allotted, numbers of students who use transportation, the past bell schedules, the consistency of bell schedules in the province, district and city, and how all this affects instructional minutes.

How many students will take the bus? 177 in the PM

Past Month Events:

Breakfast Program, Meet the Teacher BBQ, Welcome Assembly, Whole School Terry Fox Walk/Challenge, Cross Country, Blues in Schools Assembly, Safety Drills, Field Trips, School Hot Lunch Program

What’s to Come:



	Movie Night, Spooktacular, Holiday Bazaar, School Safety Week Drills, Student-led Clubs, CREEKER Assemblies, Field Trips Core Leadership Team: <u>Goal 1:</u> <i>By June 2027, teachers in grades K-5 will strengthen Tier 1 instructional practices through the implementation of the MTSS framework, resulting in 100% of teachers on staff applying one sustained Tier 1 instructional strategy.</i> <u>Goal 2:</u> <i>Applying the MTSS Framework for Wellbeing, we will see an increase in results on the Student Wellness and Education Survey (Wellness and Education) in the areas of Connectedness and Sense of Belonging by 10%.</i> We believe a key to the success of our 2 goals is the continued application of the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports model (also an MTSS framework) with a consistent positive predictable approach to setting expectations.
7:40 – 8:25	<u>New Business</u>
	Questions from PSSC: 1. <i>School Libraries: plans for this year and opportunities for parent, grandparents, and staff volunteers?</i> - Volunteers and other staff, including teachers, can't do the operational work of a school librarian, if it doesn't fall under their own responsibilities. - Staff, including teachers, and volunteers may read to students within or outside of the library setting. - Schools should not be ordering additional books to add to the library setting. Schools can order additional books to add to the classroom setting. - Schools should not be signing out books to students from the library, either through paper or electronic means. A book loaning system from the classroom setting is appropriate. - Staff may supervise students within the library setting. - Classes and students may visit the library and may take a book off the shelf, properly noting the location so that it can be easily returned by the student when finished with it. Staff can advise the student how to do this. Kim questions how the missing "library" time has been redistributed. Alex answers that teachers are still allowed to visit the library on a schedule, minus the consistency. Aaron clarifies that the reallocation of funds was at the discretion of the superintendent. Alex adds that this is affecting only three districts in the province, which makes the situation stickier (crossing union lines). Kim reflects on a recent visit from the Public Library to her child's class and the impact it had. Alex will encourage teachers to invite Librarians to come to their classrooms. Lindsay counters that the library is still useful and valuable and should be recognised as such. Further discussion ensues surrounding the loss of the privilege of signing out books (student voice). Seljan inquires about 2. <i>Educational Assistant allocation: current staffing and student support needs, status of the district review, possible PSSC follow up?</i>



	- Shifted from reviewing individual student needs (2025-2026) to a data-driven, formula-based approach (current) intended to support all students who may benefit from EA support. - An EA Change Cap was applied to any school identified through the formula-based process as facing a reduction. This means that no school would experience a reduction greater than 2% of its current allocation, should a reduction be required. - Garden Creek's EA allotment was initially reduced. Following re-allocation process, Garden Creek's allotment was increased by 3 extra support staff. Alex shares that the reallocation process has closed for the year. No more schools can inquire about adding or redistributing EAs for the 2026-2027. Aaron shares that the numbers of budgeted EAs (129) versus that the actual number of hired EAs does not balance. Sarah reminds the Committee that the qualifications for EA hiring has changed, and this could be a barrier to meeting that magical number of hires. 3. <i>Provincial lunch program: rollout update, feedback on the ordering platform and available menu items?</i> - District team is planning to share surveys with families so they can gather feedback on their experiences. They will then share the feedback with the respective provides to help identify any areas for improvement. - Student response has been generally positive. Good variety. Fair quantities. Tasty! - Initial setbacks with start-up: making space ready-to-use, appliances, sharing space with breakfast program, etc. - They are currently waiting for approval of the surveys. Once they are approved, they will send them out. Lindsay wonders on the impact of the certification of the school's kitchen to the Home and School or Breakfast Program. Alex responds that there is minimal impact to already established programs, exempting that the kitchen is exclusively used from 9:30-2:30. Mostly positive feedback but some things to look into: - Flexibility of menu - Pictures of menu items - Descriptions of menu items DEC Update: Ruth - 2027 opening for George Street Middle School - Garden Creek School on the capital refurbishment list - Kingsclear Consolidated undergoing a feasibility study this year.
8:25	Closing Remarks
	District Website: https://asdw.nbed.ca/ <i>Motion to end the meeting: Michelle</i> <i>Seconded: Sarah & Lindsay</i>

Dates for the next meeting:

- November 5th
- ***December 3rd***
- Wednesday, January 27th



- **Wednesday, February 24th**
- **April 1st**
- **April 29th**
- **May 27th**

All meetings are at 6:30pm.

Topics for the next meeting:

- Re-visit use of the Creeker Library
- Spending the PSSC budget

Adjournment

Kim Sorlie
PSSC Chair

Cathy Elvin
PSSC Royal Scribe

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