

Gagetown School PSSC Minutes

February 5, 2025

Call to Order: 6:04 pm

Attendees: Katherine Colpitts, Wallace Carr, Lisa Dawson, Jennifer Ball, Stephanie White, Kevin O'Hara, Lora McKinney, Alexandra Francis

Regrets: Derek Pleadwell

Approval of Agenda: A. Francis, 2nd by J. Ball

Approval of Minutes: A. Francis, 2nd by L. Dawson

Old Business:

- RCMP presence: cameras installed, and Derek was to call about an RCMP presentation
- Lisa met with a member, but nothing further has come from it
- Arcadia wants to know what we as a school would like—we asked for permanent garbage cans and received one
- we would like an outdoor shade structure and a water system of some kind, maybe a mature Deciduous tree
- Contact principal at Geary school to ask about their grant they received and Wallace mentioned that District has money available and to contact Sean Tracy.

Principals Update:

- School plan is focusing on making our school the best place to work and learn through connections among staff, fostering collaborations—our plan is supported by wellness activities that are taking place
- Christmas concert was very successful—all teachers were there
- Basketball team went to the finals—5 teachers were in attendance
- Dan Lewis accepted a “B” contract—there was only one awarded this year, hopefully more next year
- Teacher perception survey was very positive—staff are feeling very supported and see the administrative team as very involved with the school
- Breakfast/Hot Lunch programs are going very well—Heather Rhymes from the Gagetown Distilling and Cidery business runs our hot lunch program—the food has been very well received
- Numeracy/Literacy themes take place for an hour before leaving on Friday's—there have been a few “National” days for themes: National Thesaurus Day, National Peanut Butter Day, and coming up this February 7, it's National Number Day. Students take part in activities surrounding those themes—they have been very fun and successful

- K-2 created a “Bird Buffet”—families sent in goodies, Home and School supplied the seed, and the principal and the administrative assistant surprised the students with an outdoor trail camera.
- Nominations for Teacher Awards are available
- Gagetown School was selected as one of twenty schools to pilot an “e-sport” program as one of our long-term recommendations.
- EECD is making sure students have opportunities to get career readiness and STEM opportunities—we will receive 6 new computers—there will be two groups, one being Minecraft Creation
- Fire Marshall suggested Gagetown School needs a new washer—it was 694.01—principal was wondering if PSSC money could go to pay for it—J. Ball moved that the PSSC money be absorbed into the instructional budget of Gagetown School. S. White 2nd, motion carried

DEC Report:

- Budget update—budgetary pressure will not change much year over year—biggest pressure is on EA (educational assistant) and SWI (school intervention workers) staffing—EA’s are always underfunded
- W. Carr outlined amounts in budget, including deficits, as well as numbers of teachers, EA’s, BIM’s (behavioural intervention workers)
- Outline and discussion about the school priority list
- New Policy 713 was released January 1—they took the original and added some information from Kelly Lamrock’s report—you can find it on the District website
- NB has seen an increase in students by 365
- are issues with unfilled vacancies in schools and so there was a hiring blitz in early January
- Update on school hours—less than 25 people attended the open meetings—4000 completed the Surveys—the plan will be announced in early March and will take effect September 1, of next year.
- DEC symposium coming up May 31-June 1 in Fredericton—expenses will be paid if anyone would like to attend
- Discussion ensued on the topic district putting three flagpoles at each school in ASD-W using funds from the self-sustaining fund—W. Carr was not in favour of the expense and will take our vote against back to the DEC.

New Business:

- Effective immediately, Lisa Dawson will be resigning as PSSC director. We wished her all the best

and thanked her service.

Adjournment: 7:24 pm