

## Gagetown School PSSC Minutes

March 19, 2026

**Call to Order:** 6:03 pm

**Attendees:** Katherine Colpitts, Wallace Carr, Kevin O’Hara, Kaley Lavoie-Gertridge, Ashley Moylan, Michelle Black, Rachael Smith, Lindsey Innocent, Alexandra Francis

Regrets: Lora McKinney

**Approval of Agenda:** K. Lavoie-Gertridge, 2nd by M. Black,

**Approval of Minutes:** M. Black, 2nd by A. Moylan

### **Business Arising:**

**Locker replacement**—Base is shuffling positions at the moment so the “locker person” has moved to another job—nothing will be happening until summer.

**Lunch Program:** Heather Rhymes will be organizing the lunch program next year. It will be prepared 2-3 days per week, out of our kitchen and she will be looking for help from the community. Home and School will not be involved and we think the government will be covering some of the cost. There will be vegetarian options and costs will be 4-7 dollars—still not totally sure amounts to be covered.

**Principals Update:** Winter Carnival was very successful—theme days and a student teacher basketball game will happen once the season is over.

\*There was an anonymous, 18,000 dollar hot lunch donation so families will not have to pay for hot lunch for March, April or May. The donor was contacted and may help next year as well.

\*Donations for our new scoreboard are coming in—5000 from District, plus 3050 so far from various sources. We may create a silent auction on Facebook.

\*The office bathroom is fixed.

\*The ventilation system: work will take place this summer.

\*School goal of Literacy: School wide story is not quite finished. We applied for a grant to have it published and for every student to receive a copy.

\*Scholastic Book Fair: we purchased more books for the school, every child received a book, and we will try to hold one every 2-3 years. Total sales: 5000 dollars or more. We

opted for a payout of 1000 dollars rather than 2000 dollars in book money as the money will go towards school activities. Wallace suggested that a book fair might be better in the fall.

\*Family game night: not many participated perhaps due to the field trip which happened on the same day—good learning curve for next year. As well, for next year, the Base has a curling rink which could be an option for an activity.

\*Chronic Absenteeism: Katherine reported that by March 9<sup>th</sup>, we had a 32% absenteeism rate. Last meeting she had only been considering our whole 106 student population, but chronic absenteeism is measured per student and over 10 days a year.

### **DEC Report:**

\*DEC Report for March 2026

\*DEC next meeting is March 19, 2026

\*Minister Forum Was Held on February 18, 2026

\*Presentations on:

Education Plan—still under embargo—will be a 12 year plan, 3 year cycle as they want small increments of success each year instead of larger ideas. 409 studies (school closures) go through DEC—government wants them to look at schools with less than 100 students and 30% room capacity. Closures so far: Burton, Bristol, Doaktown, Boistown

Student Achievement and Learning Data Snapshot

Policy Update 322, 323, 715 which is a new policy on fiscal restraint.

Lunch Program Update

Budget Overview- EA's not sustainable—funded for 875 but there were over 1010 in the system this year, so they are 1.5 million in the red. Discussions have taken place regarding needs and whether some students should be in the system—discussions with social services ongoing. There will be a cap put on number of EA's/money.

Afternoon Meeting:

Governance and Collaboration

Student Learning and Support—all classes can be found on-line.

Equity, Access and Rural Education

Long Term Sustainability

Minister Excellence in Education Awards, only 5 nominated in ASD-W

Site chosen for 80 million North Carleton K to 8 School

Plans were revealed for new Liverpool School in Fredericton, 29 million

DEC elections in May 2026—W. Carr 95% sure he will run again.

Pre Budget Consultations—more money for AST and Resource

Good New Budget for Education

Cover off cost of additional EA's in ASD-W 25-26 budget

Additional 19.3 million for EA's in 2026-2027 province wide

School Lunch program increased to 29 Million—contract will probably be coming in April or May and there will be many requirements for Heather to go through--veggie options available, and a question was raised about gluten free options

1.4 Million additional for Recruitment

5.8 Million additional for ASD's and Guidance Teachers

**New Business:** Nothing to report

**Adjournment:**

7:12 M. Black, 2nd by A. Moylan