

Gagetown School PSSC Minutes

November 6, 2023

Call to Order: 6:02 pm

Attendees: Derek Pleadwell, Wallace Carr, Rebecca Piercy, Kevin O’Hara, Stephanie White, Lisa Dawson, Kaley Lavoie-Gertridge, Lora McKinney, Alexandra Francis

Regrets: Steph Marr, Gregory White, Jennifer Ball

Approval of Agenda: L. Dawson, 2nd by S. White

Approval of Minutes: L. Dawson, 2nd by K. Lavoie-Gertridge

Principals Update:

- The new calendar has been sent out and copies will be made for anyone who would like to have one
- Very busy October: Science East, apple picking, Hallowe’en parade,
- Principal Advisory groups set up for K-3 and 4-8—November 7 to be the next Meeting—they will be discussing items such as what they like about school, and what activities they might like to see in school; purpose is to increase student voice per School Plan
 - o Creation of Advisory groups to help student engagement is following our SIP goal
- Clusters have begun
- PL days are falling on Fridays—will start up again in January—will be 10 for the year, there will be 4 Friday’s that students are here until Christmas—2 for clusters
- PL days:
 - o November 24—report cards
 - o December 8—parent/teacher interviews
 - o March 25
 - o April 15—parent/teacher interviews
 - o May 3—Council Day
 - o May 13—Branch meeting
- Enrollment: Gagetown School has 112 students enrolled, but there are some students not attending but who are yet to be listed in any other schools

School Improvement Plan:

- Same goals from last month—focused on student engagement, voice and positive learning environment

School Improvement Plan Continued:

- We are focusing on activities within teaching teams as well—wanting student involvement with combined classes so students choose what they can do more freely
- -We are working towards a more accessible **Mission and Vision** statement for staff, students and families—as it is, it is too broad and needs a narrower focus

- Core Leadership Team has been created which will fine tune the statements –the overriding idea is for Gagetown students to be autonomous learners, have resiliency, etc.—may have recognition ceremonies to recognize those students who are showing these qualities
- Core Leadership Team may use the Eagles SOAR acronym—hoping for completion for next month
- discussion ensued with regards to other ideas of vision/mission statements

Assessment results:

- They are on the GNB portal, not under embargo—copies handed out for perusal
- With the new literacy program for K-2 rolled out across NB, we may see better results as those students move along
- discussion ensued with regards to the low results—it is one snapshot of one day and there could be a multitude of reasons for the results, etc.

DEC Report:

- Two new schools being built on the Northside of Fredericton—some schools are overcrowded-- Gibson Neil has 12 portables and Devon School has porta potties for the school students
- sustainable review on 7 schools in Oromocto—Gesner, Summerhill, Assiniboine, Ridgeview, Burton, plus two more are 409 studies, have a provincial list of schools, 5 are on the list for study
- Wallace to forward Ernst and Young review
- To get new schools in Oromocto is difficult—they only take 2-3 schools off the list province wide so it will be a long time before things change—George Street Middle School is the next on the list with Liverpool and Forest Hill for consideration
- question raised about redesigning French/English schools for amalgamation—consensus was, would not work
- hard to update old schools—asbestos, old heating systems
- schools built—must sustain school for next 5-10 years—facility reports are on the school website for anyone interested—they outline such things as enrollment, and heating and custodian costs
- EA's—683 started and are at 662—always trying to increase the number and will try to get back up to 700—DEC funds 2.5 million for EA's out of own pocket
- Gagetown School was allotted a certain amount of EA's, and we received that amount—could always use more but is a difficult request to fill
- New Teacher Contract:
 - o In 2024-2025 school year, K-2 day will extend an hour to 2:40—some areas will save on bussing, some areas will need more
- Minister's Forum:
 - o Chair and Vice Chair from Anglophone West want info on:
 - Policy 713
 - DEC manager
 - Bill 46—Education Act—withdrawn, the bill is off the table now as the changes did not go through

- update on Policy 322—Inclusion Policy was ready in May/June but will now be reviewed again
- Sex Ed curriculum—want an update
- Steering Committee update
- Supposed to meet with the Education Minister once per month; there was a meeting with four Anglophone DEC's—Moncton is taking the government to court over Policy 713—our DEC will show support for this—there should be one policy; the Francophone DEC has a legal footing on this issue and said we do as well, advice from a lawyer stated to ignore the minister until hand is forced—the minister did not like that the DEC has a right to make their own policy
- DEC meetings will be going to different schools in ASD-W district
- DEC Symposium will happen November 18th in Moncton, hosted by ASD-E (Moncton)—this is open to the public so our PSSC members could attend

Old Business:

- **Policy 309** (French Language Learning)
 - At the last meeting, question arose again—why can't we have French Immersion at Gagetown School?
 - Policy 309 sets out criteria in English Prime and speaks to the FLORA program—bottom line; we do not have the population to support French Immersion
 - PSSC has sent letters in the past about French Immersion and a suggestion came forth to D. Pleadwell to invite a subject coordinator down to speak about requirements needed to enhance what we are currently teaching at our school—suggestion put forth that students from around Arcadia could attend Gagetown School to boost population—discussion ensued
 - rep will hopefully come to our December meeting—R. Piercy to ask via email
- **Vandalism/Security:**
 - Tech person from District came to school—16 cameras will be put up by doors, stairwells and outdoor spaces
 - District will be paying—we were already on a list, waiting for install—cameras will record, access and playback—may have to update lighting in places
 - RCMP put out information on Facebook about the latest vandalism here at school

New Business:

- PSSC expenses
 - Budget of \$314.92 which must be spent using certain criteria—R. Piercy to send out criteria—would be items such as food for meetings, travel to symposium, promotional info—other years it was used for supplies, BBQ for the school, Heritage Fair awards,

- should be spent on something meaningful—has to be brought up at a meeting and voted on
- suggestion of a speaker, maybe combine with another school—we have a couple of months to think about what we want to do

Round Table:

- December 6 next PSSC meeting
- November 20—picture retakes
- DEC passed new Vision/Mission statement for District
- French Immersion—PSSC has talked about this issue many times each year—the feeling is, we ask again to rehash FI, that we will just be given the policy again and things will go no further so people wanted to know if there was a more pressing issue for the school if the French question is moot—and again, it was asked if there was a way to increase French in our school

Adjournment: 7:52 pm L. Dawson, 2nd by S. White

