

**Gesner Street Elementary School**

**10 Gesner Street, Oromocto, E1V 2S8**

**Parent School Support Committee**

**Minutes**

**Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 Time: 6:30 pm**

**Location: Gesner School room 124**

**In Attendance (in-person):** Jolene Hoadley Norquay, Sheila Baker, Stephanie McCarthy, Thomas Geburt, Sherry Jonah, Kim Kucey, Robyn MacKenzie & Joy Burgess

**In Attendance (virtual):** Wendy Wood

**Call to Order:** Jolene called the meeting to order.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Kim approved. Wendy seconded.

Sherry corrected the attendance from last meeting and will re-send the updated minutes.

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Robyn approved the minutes. Joy seconded.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

* **Update on Canadian Mental Health Association NB (CMHANB) presentations**
  + Sherry is working with Luc Couturier to organize the presentations. On behalf of the committee, Sheila sent out a survey to caregivers to gauge their interest in the presentations. There were 51 responses. Without a paid Survey Monkey account, it’s not possible to view all 51 responses. Generally, from the responses visible, Thursday evenings is preferred.
  + Sherry will reach out to Luc to request the Coping Tool Box, then Positive Attitude, then Nurturing Self-Esteem in Children for the following dates: Thursday March, 30th, April 20th & May 25th
  + Sherry will work with Kim to develop a flyer to send out to all Gesner caregivers. Sheila will extend the invitation to Summerhill caregivers. The flyer will include: dates, times, topics, CMHA logo, Gecko.
    - Deadline: February 24th
  + The committee will have refreshments for 40-50 people to attend in person.
* **Gesner PSSC budget**
  + Jolene sent an email to the committee with the proposed budget items.
  + Jolene made a motion to spend up to $600 on the mural project and up to $200 to purchase refreshments to support the presentation to caregivers. The committee approved.
    - Porch paint –pink, blue, black, white, green, light blue (background) ($65 each) + painting supplies = $600
* **Brightspace Update**
  + 6 teachers at Gesner are piloting Brightspace with their classes. Some teachers have heard from parents that they are enjoying seeing the updates on Brightspace. Parents are not able to comment so teachers don’t know who has logged on to the site.
* **Staff Appreciation Week-February 13th-17th**
  + On behalf of the volunteer committee, Sheila sent a SignUp email to Gesner caregivers. All the slots were filled within a few hours. Parents and students can also send notes to staff to show their appreciation.

**New Business:**

* **Passion Project Day**
  + Every student in the school will have an opportunity to bring in something they are passionate about. Grade 2’s will go this week, Grade 1’s the next week and Kindergarten the following week.
* **Indigenous Presentations**
  + Sarah Francis visited Gesner – she is the First Nations Lead at the district. Sheila shared pictures from Sarah’s visit. The students loved having her attend and are looking forward to her next visit. Later this month, students from Hubbard Elementary and Oromocto High School to do a drumming presentation.
  + On 28 March 2023, Sarah is going to do a Smudging presentation and Smudging celebration outside.
* **Black History Month**
  + The school has been provided with learning materials to support teaching students about Black History Month. This includes readings, songs, and art. The staff are appreciative of the support they received for this.
* **Immersion Program PSSC virtual meeting**
  + Jolene attended this session. She said it was well attended by parents in Oromocto and surrounding areas. The consensus was that there were concerns about staffing, added stress of no choice & children’s mental health, military community having families move in and out of the province, and the goal of the program is to have graduates attain a conversational level of French while the current program currently meets and surpasses that goal. Thomas and Sheila also shared some similar comments based upon attendance at the 25 January in-person consultation session.

**Correspondence: N/A**

**Closing Comments:**

Jolene will send out emails regarding budget items to Sheila.

Sherry and Kim will develop the flyer for the presentations

**Date of Next Meeting: April 12, 2023**

**Adjournment:** Sherry approved this motion. Wendy seconded it.