

**Gesner Street Elementary School**

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

**Parent School Support Committee**

**Minutes**

Date: June 7, 2023 Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Gesner School room 124

**In Attendance:** Sheila Baker, Thomas Geburt, Sherry Jonah, Robyn MacKenzie, Noella Owens, Wendy Wood, Kim Kucey, Keri Lelande, Chelsea Ellis, Kelly Till & Jolene Hoadley Norquay

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

**Approval of the Agenda:** Kim approved; Sherry seconded

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Robyn approved; Sheila seconded

**Business Arising from the Minutes:** n/a

**New Business:**

* **Jolene – Policy 713**
  + Jolene participated in a consultation with other PSSCs about Policy 713 with Minister Bill Hogan. The main concerns Minister Hogan wanted to consult with the PSSC Chairs were related to washrooms, team sports, and using a preferred name and pronoun.
  + The consensus among the PSSCs was that washrooms were a non-issue. More washrooms with private stalls are preferred.
  + Related to using preferred name and pronouns: The Minister shared that some parents have complained that as a parent, they currently do not have a rights if the school does not share with parents that their child has asked the school to use different pronouns than their biological sex. Jolene asked for specific examples and one example was shared.
* **Artist’s painting mural** 
  + The school has contracted a muralist/artist Laura Forester to paint the mural on the side of the school. She was going to have the mural finished for June 8th, but with the poor rainy weather, she hasn’t been able to start.
  + Sherry will ask Laura to add a rainbow somewhere on the mural design.
  + Otherwise, the mural design is approved.
* **PowerPoint – Changes to PSSC**
  + Bill 46 is a new education act – it was announced in the legislative assembly in May 2023.
  + The committee went through the PowerPoint presentation designed for parents and discussed key points. The new structure comes into effect on July 1, 2023.
  + There were other changes made to the Education Act, but they were not announced.
* **Staffing for next year:** Sheila will be doing 0.5 guidance and 0.5 teaching for the upcoming school year (for 1 school year). Currently the school has 0.7 guidance. Tinika Lowe is the successful candidate for the VP position for the upcoming school year, however, the VP position will have a full-time classroom.
* There was a study done on the schools in Oromocto. There is a proposal for the 7 Oromocto schools (Assiniboine, Gesner, Summerhill, Hubbard, Harold Peterson, Ridgeview & Burton) to be combined into 3 K-8 schools. This is something that may happen in the next 5-8 years.

**Correspondence:**

**Closing Comments:**

**Date of Next Meeting:** September/October 2023 on a Thursday night

**Adjournment:** 8:00 pm