

**Gesner Street Elementary School**

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

**Parent School Support Committee Minutes**

**Date: September 18, 2025**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

**Location: Gesner School**

**Attendees:** Sheila Baker, Stacey St. Peter, Thomas Geburt, Sherry Jonah, Matt and Sophie Quigley, Lyndon Morehouse, Kaitlyn Bettle, Samantha Wambolt, Jagmeet Saini and Arshdeep Kaur.

**Regrets:** Kelly Till and Erin Crook

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

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

**New Business:**

* **Welcome New Members**
  + The committee welcomed four new members: Kaitlyn, Samantha Jagmeet and Arshdeep. Welcome!
  + The committee is seeking a community member to join the PSSC.
* **Introduction to the PSSC-PowerPoint and Handbook**
  + Sheila went through the PSSC PowerPoint and provided each person attending with a copy.
* **Appointing a Chair, Vice-Chair, Meeting Note Taker**
  + Kelly Till was appointed chair for the second year.
  + Kaitlyn Better was appointed vice-chair.
  + Sherry Jonah was appointed Meeting Note Taker.
* **Schedule Meetings for The Year**
  + The meetings for the upcoming school year were discussed and set. The committee will meet from 6-7 pm on the following dates:
    - September 18th
    - October 30th
    - November 27
    - January 29th
    - February 26th
    - April 30th
    - May 28th
    - June 11th
* **In Person and Virtual Options for Meetings?**
  + The committee decided to continue to have a virtual option for meetings.
* **New School Rules, and the Great Gecko Awards**
  + Gesner implemented new school rules this fall. They are Be Safe, Be Kind and Be Responsible. They are displayed around the school and available in French and English. The school team has developed behaviour expectations for each school rule for each environment within and outside the school. For example, they have a poster with behaviour expectations for the hallway, music room, classrooms and phys ed. They are teaching students the school rules through lessons, stories and videos. It seems that the students are understanding the school rules. The school uses data to track behaviour related to the school rules.
  + The Great Gecko Awards changed from last year to include the new school rules. They are now done on carbon paper so the school can keep a copy, and a copy gets sent home with the student. Each week the school holds a draw for everyone who received a Gecko Award that week. The winner receives an extra phys. ed class for their entire class and a small prize for themself. So far, the students have been really enjoying this.
  + The gecko awards are now on white paper. It was asked if there is an option to change the colour of the award to make it stand out more, like the green versions did last year. Due to the cost of the carbon copy booklets, it’s not possible to order them on coloured paper, but Sheila will bring this feedback to their PBIS team to discuss further.
* **Gesner Events:** 
  + **Dot Day:** Dot Day was celebrated on September 15th. Each class did a lesson and activities to celebrate the day. Dot Day is based off the book titled “Dot” by Peter H. Reynolds which encourages creativity, self-expression, and confidence.
  + **Terry Fox Walk:** The school will be doing their Terry Fox Walk on September 25th. Community and family members are welcome to join for the walk. The school has a fundraising goal of $500. The top 3 fundraising students will get to put a pie in the face of a staff member.
  + **Smudging Ceremony:** Each class will have the opportunity to participate in a Smudging Ceremony on September 29th or October 1st. Classes will be attending the smudging ceremony with their Wabanaki Partners. **\*Wabanaki Partners:** Gesner has partners classes together called Wabanaki Partners. Throughout the school year, they will learn together about the Wabanaki perspectives, histories, cultures, and ways of knowing as class pairings.
  + **Apple Picking:** Each class will be going on an Apple Picking fieldtrip to an apple orchard in Gagetown in October. Each student will come home with a 5 lb bag of apples.
* **New Members Sign PSSC Declaration Form**
  + Members were given the opportunity to sign the PSSC Declaration Form.

**Additions:**

* Thomas shared with the committee that there was a sustainability study completed that determined to close the Oromocto schools and build 3 new K-8 schools. This project is currently 8th on the provincial list. It will likely be 6+ years before a new school welcomes students.
* The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is preparing for the next education plan. Members are encouraged to participate in the public engagement sessions, including filling out surveys and attending public consultation sessions.

**Correspondence:** News Release Education Plan

**Date of Next Meeting:** October 30th from 6-7 pm

**Adjournment:** 7 pm