

**SCHOOL NAME: Gibson-Neill Memorial Elementary School****Address: 67 Wyngate Drive, Fredericton****Parent School Support Committee Minutes****Date: Monday, January 19, 2026 Time: 6:30 pm****Location: Gibson-Neill Memorial Elementary School**

PSSC Members Present: Andrea Trenholm, Chair Nancy Wilkins-Keetch, Vice Chair Others: Amanda Good, Katie Edgar, Veronica Richard, Deidre Hutchings, Andrew Tardiff, Brittney Fraser PSSC Members Regrets: Sarah Dobbin, Carolyn Gibbons	School/DEC Representation Present: Tracy Stewart, Principal Gordon Linder, Teacher Rep Colin Dolan, Vice Principal Mike Mazerolle, DEC Representative School/DEC Representation Regrets:
---	---

Call to Order: by Andrea Trenholm @ 6:33**Approval of the Agenda:** NA**Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting:** NA**Business Arising from the Minutes:** N/A**New Business:****Mike Mazerolle DEC Report**

- Andrea asked Mike to speak on any work and discussions the DEC has had around the Provincial Attendance Policy.
- Mike noted:
 - Gibson Neill is doing well with chronic absenteeism when compared to the attendance data from other schools in ASD-W
 - The DEC does not have its own policy regarding absenteeism; it follows the province's policy.
 - There are many layers to chronic absenteeism and therefore questions if the policy will successfully address all areas. PSSC members also engaged in this discussion with Mike
 - Improving school attendance is more than an education issue and, ideally, the group would like to see other sectors of government become involved to provide additional supports, services and hold families accountable for school attendance (social development, health). PSSC members

asked if the DEC might consider advocating to EECD to acknowledge that this is a larger issue than schools can handle on their own and that more support from other departments is necessary.

Principal's Report

2024/2025 Parent Wellness Survey

- 77 parents/caregivers responded to the survey, which is a low response rate and, therefore, it is difficult to generalize to the general student population.
- From the data, it was noted that habits around food came up as an issue in a few areas. The group had a brief discussion about possibly hosting a food night during the 2026-2027 school year that would allow families (parents and children) to learn about healthy foods and simple food preparation.

2025 Student Check-in Survey

- 46 students in grades 4 and 5 completed the survey in the fall of 2025.
- There were two areas of focus: well-being and relationships.
 - **Well-being** – 57% enjoy being at school, 54% of students enjoy learning at school, and 67% feel happy to be at school. Gibson-Neill falls slightly below the provincial average in these areas.
 - **Relationships** – 78% of students feel that adults care about them at school. 89% spend time with friends at school. 69% feel there is an adult they can go to with a problem, and 85% feel safe at school. Gibson-Neill scores are similar to the provincial data in these areas.

Recent School Initiatives

- Indigenous Drumming Opportunity – GNMES is a First Nation enhancement school, and some First Nation students have been participating in a drumming group. Students will perform for their peers in February.
- Black History Month – Maritime Center for African Dance will do presentations for each class, which will include dancing, drumming, and storytelling.
- Winter Olympics – Students will learn about the Olympics and the lessons around it in February.
- Pink Shirt Day – school-wide kindness initiative in February to be determined.

PSSC Budget

- \$350 – March 31, 2025.
- Ideas:
 - Working dinner meeting in February.
 - African Dance, Drumming and Story-telling workshop.
 - Opportunities for learning about black history month.
- The committee decided we will discuss how to spend the remaining budget at the February meeting.
- Members are asked to come up with ideas on how best to spend the remaining budget.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 23, 2026

Correspondence: N/A

Closing Comments:

Adjournment: Adjournment at 7:55 pm