

School Council
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2021

Opening:

Karen Kennedy called the virtual meeting (due to Covid restrictions) to order at 6:45pm

Present:

Marianne Millsap – Principal
Shawn Henderson – Vice Principal
Karen Kennedy – Co- Chair
Lisa Thompson - Co- Chair
Carly Ferris – Vice Chair
Colleen Kee - Treasurer
Amber Gallagher – Secretary
Jen Robinson – Teacher Rep

Welcome: Karen welcomed Marianne as our new principal and we went around and introduced everyone on the meet.

Principal's report: Marianne showed us the introduction slideshow she showed to the kids when she popped into everyone's virtual classroom to introduce herself. She told us how she has taught a variety of different ages and programs over the years at Hyland Heights, Primrose, Centennial and Princess Margaret. Her presentation was lovely!

She told us she is getting many emails from families about how well the "pivot" to online learning has gone. She personally thinks everyone is adapting well and doing a fantastic job. She wants to remind all parents, teachers and kids to remember to be patient and that this is a huge learning curve.

Marianne stated that admin gets no explanation or "heads up" for the closure/continued closure and that she is looking forward to getting back!

Teacher Report: Jennifer Robinson gave the report, she stated they are aware everyone is stressed but teachers are working hard to meet the curriculum the ministry laid out for the year as well as catching kids up on things missed in the spring. Based on her ins and outs of google meets and classrooms, Jennifer stated that teachers are responding back to kid's questions in many forms including google classroom chat boards. Teachers are spending their Sunday nights preparing paper packages for those who need them, on top of the weekly google classroom work. They are also constantly assessing kids work that is submitted and their participation on the meets. They are also contacting families to ask how they can assist in bolstering submitted work and participation so that they have something to put on report cards. Teachers have noticed an increase in online participation in comparison to the spring and are loving it!

Teachers are working on meeting specific IEP goals and there will be updates sent home with the report cards on Feb. 18th. They are using Google meets to meet individually and assist with reading goals. There have also been team meetings to brainstorm ideas as to how to help those having issues and stay ahead of them.

Jennifer stated Grade 8 teachers are preparing the kids for Grade 9 course choosing with individual meets. Math is the only destreamed subject starting this fall.

Caitlin the Child Support Worker has been using many forms of communication to families in order to help meet their needs and offer mental health supports as necessary.

Jennifer updated that the children loved Marianne's presentation in their classrooms and were very excited to meet her. As well, Marianne has connected the school to Big Brothers & Big Sisters for added support for the students.

Lastly, Jennifer reported that there were a few things done for Mrs. Dempsey-Jones farewell. They put together a video with kids saying what was great about her, the kids wrote letters saying what they will miss the most, the teachers gave her a gift of pottery, Mrs. DJ and Puma went class to class and they gave her an individual clap out and finally they went through her writings from her time at Primrose, picked out her most common themes and had them put up in the hallway. The takeaway is that Mrs. DJ will be greatly missed by all!

Treasure Report: Colleen stated that there is not much to report being out of the school. She wants to remind teachers to submit their expenses for the \$100 allotted to them. As well a question was asked about The Family Transition Place programming and if we had purchased online content. The collective answer was that the class that received it in December loved it, they had two sessions and were the "guinea pigs" for the program. There hasn't been anymore said about future offerings.

Other Business:

Playground Committee Update – Marianne was given a quick update on what the committee is trying to accomplish, it was stated that we are at a standstill until Evergreen comes back with pricing. Shawn and Marianne will take an inventory of the Kindergarten Bunker, as it was brought up that the Kindergartners have nothing to play with on the yard. Amber is going to work with admin to rectify the situation. Marianne is going to ask CHES info about their new playground they are in the process of doing.

Mitten Box - \$300 was donated through School Cash Online. \$22 was spent before the closure. There is going to be some collaboration to make sure kids at home have the things they need and then when we get back to school that the box has enough stuff in it to support the outside learning and playing that the kids are doing. A donation bin for gently used stuff was talked about and will be followed up on.

Spirit Days – Lisa brought up the need for some school wide spirit including parents. The council was very excited about this idea and started throwing ideas around immediately. There was talk of colouring contests, snowperson building contest and maybe even a Guinness record attempt. The council is going

to work with Admin to come up with some days in the very near future with prizes potentially using a grant from the Ministry to promote parental engagement.

Joint Council Update – Primrose hosted the meeting in December and no other school councils attended. There was a presentation by Rural Rescue, as well as the Superintendent and Trustee Reports.

Adjournment:

Karen Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday February 23rd at 6:30pm

Minutes Submitted By: Amber Gallagher

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.