

School Council
Meeting Minutes
March 16th, 2021

Opening:

Virtual meeting (due to Covid restrictions) called to order at 6:30pm

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 Robertson – Teacher Rep
Jacqueline Clement
Darcy Delaney
Adelle Barr-Klouman
Lisa Honing
Erika Thurston

Welcome: Everyone introduced themselves and the meeting commenced.

Principal's report: Marianne started by stating that the remainder of the outdoor equipment provided by the School Council was dropped off earlier and would be sent out in short order. She also stated that she had gotten some information about Gaga Ball pits and has someone who can make them for the cost of materials. It was further discussed and everyone is on board with trying to get them made so they are ready to go when Marianne gets information and approval with regards to Covid protocols. Worse comes to worse they will be ready to go when things go back to “normal.” Marianne stated that the yard has been divided into class sections and they are rotating weekly. It is being well received by the kids. She also received approval to open the playground when weather permits because it is in one section and would only be used by one cohort per week. There is one slide on the playground that needs to be replaced but a replacement is in the works.

Marianne stated the gym is now open for low impact class cohort use and that teachers are indeed utilizing it.

The breakfast program is back up and running in a modified way. Ea's are volunteering to assist and coolers are dropped at each class with fruit, veggies, grains and dairy. The kids are loving it and any garbage is going home in their lunch bags so parents can see what their kids are eating. A Food & Friends link was sent out again for those in need to sign up for food baskets delivered to their door, as well as a link to donate if someone sees fit.

Marianne wanted everyone to know that April 1st is the cut off for switching between virtual and in-class learning. If classes are at their cap, there is no ability to switch into the school but a wait list is kept. Kindergarten is at their cap and there is only a little wiggle room in the rest of the classes.

April 1st is also picture day and a flyer will be sent home this week about it. Spirit week is in full swing and the kids are loving it. As well Dufferin Parent Support Network has a few workshops coming up that have been retweeted on the Primrose account. There are also child abuse slideshows being shown in the classroom the week of March 22nd or March 29th that is mandated by the board. Parents cannot opt out. Health programs will be run in May and that is when parents have an option to opt out of the programming.

Marianne gave a good explanation on Primrose's Covid cases that occurred this month. She stated that the Y and buses were not affected. A student was sent home, tested positive and the Public Health team and the board guided the protocols that followed thereafter. 2 Kindergarten classes were sent home because they shared a yard space. That issue has been rectified and won't occur again. The third class was sent home mid day because of the way tracing occurred. The school community handled it fantastically and Marianne thanks everyone for their support. The three classes seamlessly switched to online learning and returned to the school based on Public Health's contact tracing and isolation protocol today. A new form has been created and any student out sick or sent home with a symptom on the Covid list will have to fill out the form prior to return to the school.

Q. Is there talk about rapid tests for those students who wake up with, for example, a stomach-ache that could be for any number of reasons, in a way to prevent entire households from missing school for 3 to 5 days?

A. Not that admin is aware of currently.

Q. If one sibling whose class is on isolation do their siblings need to stay home too and will there be work provided?

A. No, until the sibling has symptoms everyone else continues with their lives. If a parent chooses to keep everyone home, there is work posted on the Google classroom as well as the availability of asynchronous paper packages.

Teacher Report: Jennifer Robertson gave the report, she stated the yard schedule is going great and the kids are loving rotating. Bus patrollers are only picking up kids from their own bus now and mostly from Kindergarten as the Grade 1's are now independent and can get themselves to their line. The Grade 8 teachers had a transition meeting with the high school and it went extremely well as they collaborated on how to make the transition smooth for the kids in the fall. Speech therapy is happening virtually, computer training and OT in person and things are progressing nicely with those. Jen stated she attended the PIC workshop that just occurred and she said it was great.

Jen updated that Family Transition Place has offered their course free online at this time. It seems to be excellent and is taught in a fun and engaging way. They did a contest for classes to choose to write a letter to an everyday hero. The kids did such an amazing job three of them even won prizes. There is to be a poster making contest about gratitude coming soon!

Sherry was asking if the School Council wanted to start up a lending library or a book club like many other schools do. It was to be discussed later. Lastly, Jen brought up that the French teachers were looking for some support to purchase French-English dictionaries. Options were discussed and they were told to contact Amber for an ordering option after they see how many kids go out and get their own.

Treasure Report: Collen said again, not much change due to lack of input and output. She stated the Family Transition Place programming that was paid for a year in advance for this spring was credited for future use. It was discussed that a reminder email should go out that if any teacher sees kids who need shoes, coats etc to let the office know. There is approx. \$350 left in the Winter Clothing Fund and we don't want kids to go without.

Other Business:

Spirit Days/PIC Events – Karen stated that the PIC events were well received, there were a lot of submissions over the 3 weeks and it seemed that families had a lot of fun. She purchased \$250 of Maple Grove Farms gift certificates, \$100 for Subway, \$50 for No Frills, \$50 for Terra Nova Pub and \$50 for Superburger. While getting the Maple Grove ones Karen stated that the owner Chris expressed interest in partnering with council in the future after the cookies were such a success.

Kiss and Ride – It was brought up that there needs to be a reminder sent out about parking in the loop. There was a long discussion about proper protocols, which include only dropping your child at a sidewalk, not pulling around people and making sure kids are ready to just get out and go. Marianne and Shawn were going to discuss further and try to watch over the next few days so they can properly address safety concerns.

Playground Committee Update – Amber gave a quick update that the board has cut ties with Evergreen. Shawn is in talks with Facilities which is taking over and trying to get pricing, but it will take awhile. The council was updated on the drainage issue that plagues the yard. The boards quick fix in the fall seems to be making a positive change. They are also still discussing further fixes to be completed hopefully this summer. Amber also passed on information that if someone were to break up the ice blocks that accumulate it would assist drainage as would blowing the snow into a different area, so flow isn't obstructed from the other yard.

Fundraising – Council asked if fundraising was an option yet. A Read A-Thon was discussed, and Marianne said she would inquire with the board. It was also brought up that perhaps a Spring cleanup bottle drive could occur. It was well received and was going to be investigated.

Breakfast Program – Carly asked what the weekly cost is currently. It was said the past few weeks have been approximately \$300 and there is about \$25,000 in the bank for it. Carly and Lisa offered their expertise as needed.

Grad/Kindergarten Orientation– The board has stated that all Grads will be virtual this year and on June 23rd. They sent ideas such as drive up or drive thru. As well it must be pre-recorded not live. Orientations will also be virtual with a drive thru option for welcome package pickup.

Adjournment:

Karen Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm. Next meeting is Tuesday May 4th, at 6:30p.m.

Minutes Submitted By: Amber Gallagher

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.