

School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
October 12th, 2021

**Opening:**

Karen Kennedy called the virtual meeting (due to Covid restrictions) to order at 6:48 pm

**Present:**

Marianne Millsap – Principal  
Ashley Hopkins – Vice Principal  
Karen Kennedy – Co-Chair  
Carly Ferris – Co-Chair  
Amber Gallagher – Vice-Chair  
Colleen Kee – Outgoing Treasurer  
Monica Watson-Incoming Treasurer  
Melissa Irwin-Secretary  
Carli Lang  
Christine Wallace  
Mariah Kidd  
Heidi Fuller  
Amy Ouchterlony

**Welcome:** Karen welcomed everyone and introduced Council Members for those who may not have heard or seen the positions posted. She also clarified that questions, concerns, or ideas were all welcome from anyone who would like to participate.

**Principal's report:** Marianne welcomed everyone and let us know that Jen Robertson (Teacher Rep) would not be here this evening and that she is only back doing mornings for now. She also mentioned that she would be looking for a replacement for when Jen is unavailable as there is a lot of interest from other teachers.

Marianne noted that CCAT testing is happening this week, and she would look into how this affects students home for isolation. IEP's go home on the 19<sup>th</sup>

She spoke on the covid cases at school, and two classes are shut down until the 25<sup>th</sup>. Most classes in the school had a sibling from the classes that were shut down. One bus was also affected. She said any children within 2 meters of a high-risk contact on the bus were also sent home. Self-isolation now starts the day the school is made known of the case, and that day 1 begins the day the children are sent home. Marianne also spoke of the lengthy process of a case being made known to the school. Children are sent home if it happens during the day; if they are made aware after school hours, an email is sent to inform parents. Things also are frequently changing.

Google meets for the affected classes will begin on Thursday, and remote learning for children in isolation whose classes were not shut down. Chrome books will be arranged for students who need

them on Wednesday and be ready for pick up at noon. There will also be support for students without access to the internet as packages will be made for them.

Q: Do Siblings need to be tested?

A: No, the only requirement is that they isolate. Tests are not mandatory unless symptoms are present. Most kids are not catching the virus at school; we just need to be cautious.

Q: If there is another case, will parents be notified?

A: Yes, parents will absolutely be told if there is another case.

Q: Is there a change in the length of isolation if another case happens?

A: I assume there would be no change to when the children return but not entirely sure. You would definitely be notified if that were the case. The most important thing is to keep communication open.

**Teacher Report: N/A Teacher Rep not present at the meeting**

**Treasurer Report:** Colleen turned things over to Monica. Monica said she was in contact with Colleen through email and has a good understanding of how things are done; She will continue to learn the spreadsheets used and figure everything out.

She received \$194 from Leslie from a Tee-shirt company and money from the bottle drive and will receive more info on what is required to deposit.

Karen mentioned that the bottle drive brought in just under \$2600; it was a dirty job but well worth it! She also asked Marianne if a bottle drive could happen this fall before the weather turns. Marianne said that was fine, and a Saturday near the end of October will be chosen to make it happen.

**Other Business:**

**Parent-Teacher Interviews-** Amber asked Marianne if parent/teacher interviews were happening. Since rules for most public places allow in person, is it possible to do the interviews in person? Marianne said she could put it out there and ask the board. The problem lies with vaccinations and privacy concerns because we cannot ask if someone is vaccinated. Since teachers are yet to be mandated for immunization, in-person interviews will most likely not happen. Marianne will check with the board and give an update. Report cards to go home the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Eco-Schools Club Update-Ashley/Carli-** Carli took the lead on speaking to us about EcoSchools and the plan for the 2021/2022 school year. She mentioned Primrose was at the platinum stage but, due to covid, certification had to change. She shared an infographic with us outlining the plan for the school year.



The certifications run on a point-based system and are accessible through an online portal on the EcoSchools website. Here are some notes submitted by Carli that was also discussed in the meeting:

*“Total of 115 points (Platinum = 101, Gold = 75, Silver = 66, Bronze = 50). Each action has several tasks within it to qualify for the points.*

*Due to COVID restrictions, there cannot be an EcoClub this year. Ashley is recruiting individual classes to take the lead on different action items. Any parents who wish to support are encouraged to get in touch with Ashley (ie making infographics for announcements/newsletters, providing expertise and/or resources around a topic).*

*The first initiatives are GOOS bins and Litterless Lunches. The GOOS bin initiative focuses on putting GOOS bins into each classroom and involves keeping track of the number of bins, number of participants and number of cases of paper bought by the school. The Litterless Lunch action involves students doing a survey to see how many lunches contain single use packaging, with a particular focus on plastic bags, water bottles, and cutlery. This is followed by an awareness campaign to encourage litterless lunches which is followed by another survey to assess the impact of the awareness.”*

Marianne discussed that a few activities couldn't go ahead because of covid restrictions, including Community Clean Up, Indoor Gardening, and Waste Audits. These particular activities may happen as the year progresses, but many other options and extra points are available.

There was discussion on how to get parents involved and individual teachers getting creative and taking the lead in this initiative. Mrs. Little was mentioned as someone who may be interested. They would also love if parents were looking to help in the background with research, graphic design for outreach, etc. Monica offered help as she has the experience, and Marianne mentioned sending out emails and updating the website to help spread the word.

Q: Can we use the bottle drive to help in the initiative

A: Can but need weights of recyclables, keep return slips and take notes of what you are returning.

We are thankful for the update and have a better understanding of how it all works.

**Breakfast Program-** Karen spoke about her meeting with Ashley regarding the Breakfast Program. She learned how the program was run, the logistics, and how money was spent. The program uses \$650 a week and is feeding over 540 children. Due to covid, all food needs to be pre-packaged, and all purchases require approval.

Ashley mentioned that "Sweets From The Earth" has taken us on and discounts us on purchases.

There is lots of money available to the program and will sustain us, but it would be good to find ways of getting donations to help out. Overall, Karen said she was happy with how it was going and that the money was being spent wisely.

**Breakfast With Santa-** Karen spoke with our Santa, who has been doing our annual event for quite some time. Although the School Boards are still waiting to see if such events can happen, he is booking events and holding spaces. He is open to virtual visits and willing to work with us. Marianne mentioned at this time, gatherings of this nature are not permitted, but things could change. She also said a good idea would be to establish a committee and get creative with brainstorming.

Q: Will we be able to generalize reasoning for raising funds?

A: The community needs to know, so you have to say what it is for.

Q: What about percentages?

A: As long as you state what they are.

**Other Business-** Carly asked about the Boogiathon if something could be done in the parking lot with classes. Marianne reiterated that brainstorming could be done, utilize School Cash Online, and deal with prizes. The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) fund was also discussed. It was usually used for Breakfast With Santa, but Council went above and beyond with their engagement activities and prizes last year. The funds must be used to engage parents, and we will have to find a way to utilize the fund again this year.

Adjournment:

Karen Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 17th at 6:30 pm

Minutes Submitted By: Melissa Irwin

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.