School Council

Meeting Minutes

November 17th, 2021

**Opening:**

Carly Ferris called the virtual meeting (due to Covid restrictions) to order at 6:36 pm

**Present:**

Marianne Millsap – Principal

Ashley Hopkins – Vice Principal

Karen Kennedy – Co-Chair

Carly Ferris – Co-Chair

Amber Gallaugher – Vice-Chair

Colleen Kee – Outgoing Treasurer

Melissa Irwin-Secretary

Jennifer Robertson-Teacher Rep

Carli Lang

Christine Wallace

Annalea Kidd

Jacqueline Clement

Shannon Wright

**Welcome:** Carly welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves since it was such a large group.

**Principal’s Report:** Marianne welcomed everyone. She spoke on the digital report cards available tomorrow (Nov.18) after 4 pm but could be sooner. Paper copies are available to those who need them. Parent/Teacher interviews will be online via Google Meets; instructions were sent out in an email. Help is also available for parents; they can email Ashley Hopkins or Leslie Prevost. She mentioned that the teachers could have flexible schedules to accommodate parents, and phone calls can also be made. The teachers will work hard to accommodate and make contact in whatever way possible to connect with parents.

Marianne stated that extracurriculars had been given the go-ahead from the Board. Masks are required, the activities must be low intensity, and there will be no travel to other schools. Some teachers have just brought their class to the gym at recess, but there has been no official start.

Bullying Prevention week starts on the 22nd, and there will be a focus on social media in the intermediate grades.

November 30th is Picture Day. Some classes were done, but it was rescheduled due to the power outage and other things. Picture retakes and Grad photos will be done on the same day-January 12th.

The $500 PIC money was put into Parent Council and needs to be decided how to be used.

Q: What is the Board’s reasoning for masks during extracurricular activities?

A: Not for sure on the official answer, but I feel that the Board would be worried about the spread of covid from mixing cohorts and classes. The mask makes for less high-risk, and I have the feeling that it would affect a lot of kids (siblings, classes, etc.) if there were a case of covid, and that might be their reasoning.

Q: What is the age range for extracurriculars?

A: No restrictions on age, but no one has stepped up yet. I think more will happen for the bigger kids, and recess has been used by some classes already.

Q: Will other classes play each other?

A: So far, just single classes have been doing this, but classes can mix.

Marianne also mentioned that Google Classroom has all the announcements, and if parents log in to their child’s classroom, it’s a great way to stay up to date on what's happening, and they try to show as much as possible.

**Teacher Report:** Jennifer sent out a huge thank you from the teachers and staff for the “Pumpkins for Primrose” fundraiser! The staff was very grateful for such a great return and all the people who helped make it a success.

Some Comments from other teachers:

Mr. Parsons: Says his class is researching Cultural Groups in Canada at the moment.

Mr. Benotto: Says he is getting started in the workshop soon. Kids are very excited, and a fantastic renovation was done, so the workshop will be a fun place to be!

Mrs. Anderson: Asked if she could get some help with the “Forest of Reading” program. So many kids get involved and love this program.

Jennifer also mentioned the grade sevens and eights would be having Vicki Burton, a guidance counselor, speak with them about pathways in high school. She works with the students in “My Blueprint,” accessible on the student’s UGCloud landing page.

There have been lots going on in the school for anti-bullying. The kids are working on raps, slogans, and posters; it’s great to see!

Travis from FTP (Family Transition Place) is hoping to come in person to speak with grades five to eight in April. He may need to do this virtually, in which case there is no cost to the school. The program speaks to students on many social and personal topics. **You can see the topics covered in the attached documents**.

Jennifer spoke on some happenings around the school:

-She said all the kids are real troopers with all the Covid protocols.

-The school halls are filled with such beautiful artwork that the kids are very proud of. Some teachers have posted the artwork on Google Classroom for parents to see.

-Pride Club is starting small with the intermediates, and the class reps will bring the info back to their classes.

-Sandra Hawkins, Jennifer, and Neil Ananthan-Horning is hoping to get choir started up this month as an intramural before winter break.

-Marianne and Ashley have done a fantastic job cleaning up the bus procedures at the end of the day, and it is now running smoothly.

-There is a virtual Parent Meeting on December 8th for kids in need of special classes, gifted classes, or other diagnoses.

- There was an equity and professional development/learning meeting for staff discussing meeting the needs of culture and diversity in the school. There was a discussion about a next step to involve input from students and families as well.

-Jennifer asked if Andrew James could be kept notified of the next meeting. \*Noted by Secretary (Melissa Irwin) and has added Andrew to the email list.

Karen Kennedy took a few moments to formally introduce Shannon Wright, who assisted School Council with the fundraising in conjunction with Maple Grove. She is happy to help us with her background in fundraising and planning.

**Treasurer Report:** Colleen reported this evening since Monica was unable to make tonight’s meeting. Colleen said $1600 came in from the Pumpkin Fundraiser and went to Leslie. She also mentioned the PIC Money and that we will need to figure out what to do with it.

There was some discussion about Family Transition Place. She said 2021 is already paid for and that the cost is around $4600 per year. Primrose pays and books this program in advance. To prepare for next year’s commitment to have FTP in the school (or virtually), Jennifer has reached out to Travis and Sabina at FTP to ask when commitment is needed as well as payment. Jennifer will follow up with Council when she receives a response.

**Eco-Schools Club Update-Ashley/Carli/ Annalea –** Ashley told us that Mike, who runs the Compass Run, let her know that the team at Compass Church has donated $5000 for the Breakfast Program!

In Eco-Schools, we learned that we had earned 13 points so far, which is a good start for the year even though the amount of points needed is 110 to keep our Platinum status. GOOS bins and waste-free lunches are being encouraged to keep waste to a minimum. The Kindie rooms have started growing sprouts, and other classes are planting garlic. Dufferin Waste is conducting virtual audits, and students involved will bring the information back to their classes.

There was some discussion about the issues with the drinking water at the school, and there has been communication with the building management about recommendations. The sodium levels are pretty high, and management will share the recommendations within the next week. A reverse osmosis system would be beneficial in this case.

There was a reminder to keep slips from bottle drive returns for tracking.

Annalea:

There is a month-by-month calendar with the Eco-School Initiatives. **Please see attached**. Some things may move around a bit to fit in with the teacher’s planning. Planning was done so that numbers could be submitted by the deadline at the beginning of May. If there is progress on the water situation, it will be utilized for the Great Gulp Module. **See the complete plan attached.**

**Other Business:**

-Karen spoke about the Council By-Laws being read and signed each year by members, and the thought was to do this electronically this year as a means of signing them.

-Bonita (Mrs. Williamson’s mother) donated lovely planters for the front of the school.

-There is a donation bin for “Coats for Kids” at the front of the school. You can drop off any gently used winter wear between 8 am and 4 pm, and it will be washed and given to children at the school in need of warm clothing. The items can be sent with children if they can handle them. Marianne was happy to report that many families are willing to donate.

-Primrose is also doing a “Care Cupboard” program with the help of Katelyn Charbonneau. This is a place where students can come to get personal care items for themselves or their families.

Fundraising-Karen

Karen-Are we able to do a hot lunch program yet?

Marianne- We have not received the “ok” yet.

-There was some discussion around hot lunches such as pizza days, and the big hurdle right now is that volunteers are needed, yet they are not allowed in schools at this time. We want to be ready for when the opportunity comes and get things going quickly when we can have volunteers again.

-Karen told us that after a lengthy discussion, it was decided that BWS would not go ahead this year. The time needed for preparations and the restrictions made it too difficult to make a way around and get it done. We are hopeful to have this fundraiser back next year.

Shannon- What is BWS?

Carly-Breakfast with Santa is the biggest fundraiser Primose does each year. There are vendors, a bake sale, student vendors/entrepreneurs, silent auction, kids shopping, and so much more!

Shannon-Can it happen outdoors?

Karen-We talked about it, but we have never done it outdoors before and would need more time for planning.

Shannon-What are we allowed to do on school grounds?

Marianne-Not allowed large gatherings at the moment, but that could change.

Shannon-What about off-premises?

Marianne-Not to be promoted through the school, but hopefully, things change.

-There was some discussion about possibly doing pictures with Santa with kids’ photos and perhaps using the PIC money towards this. Karen said it could be discussed offline.

-Karen mentioned that the poinsettia fundraiser is quite lucrative, so if we could promote and sell as much as possible. Jennifer said it could be put on the announcements so parents can see. The pick-up will be at Honeywood Arena Thursday, December 9th, from 6 pm-9 pm.

-There was some discussion about sending hard copies of the Poinsettia Fundraiser home, and Marianne to send out a hard copy of with spreadsheet by Friday.

-There have been some issues with Google Classroom and having last year’s and this year’s teachers on a child’s account. Marianne to send an email to staff and homeroom teachers to look into the issue and get it resolved.

-Home communication was addressed, and it was asked that a reminder be made to families that School Messenger was used for communication. It was also asked if families without tech were receiving communications as well. Marianne did check this after the meeting and confirmed that all families at Primrose have emails and receive communication through emails or phone calls; all families are getting communication from the school.

Adjournment:

Karen Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 15th at 6:30 pm

Minutes Submitted By: Melissa Irwin

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.