School Council

Meeting Minutes

February 9th, 2022

**Opening:**

Karen Kennedy called the virtual meeting (due to Covid restrictions) to order at 6:40 PM

**Present:**

Marianne Millsap – Principal Christine Wallace

Ashley Hopkins- Vice Principal Fiddle Foot Farm

Karen Kennedy – Co-Chair Jenna Hartlen

Carly Ferris – Co-Chair Carly Lang

Amber Gallaugher – Vice-Chair Cody Gillies

Colleen Kee – Treasurer Amy Octalani

Melissa Irwin-Secretary Shannon Wright

Jennifer Robertson-Teacher Rep Heidi Fuller

Ruchika Angrish-Manager of Planning at The Board

Adam Laranjeiro-Plan Technician at The Board

Jaqueline Clement

Erika Williamson

Annalea Kidd

Andrew James

**Welcome:** Karen welcomed everyone and asked for introductions since such a large group was in attendance. After introductions, Karen turned things over to Marianne.

Marianne introduced herself and Ruchika Angrish, Manager of planning from the Board. Ruchika was invited to the meeting to discuss and present her information about a proposed industrial subdivision to go in on the land directly next to the school.

**Board Subdivision Discussion**

Ruchika introduced herself as the Manager of Planning at the Board and her Colleague Adam Laranjeiro, Planning Technician at the Board. Ruchika said her job, and that of the planning department at the Board is to review and provide feedback to the Municipality. A full Zoning Bylaw Amendment and an Industrial Plan of Subdivision by Deltini Commercial Developments Inc. were received by the Board from the Township of Mulmur.

All documents and information regarding the plan are available on the Township’s website, [www.mulmur.ca](http://www.mulmur.ca).

Ruchika explained that it is unknown what will go in beside the school and they are currently reviewing and looking at the use of land, water drainage, walkability, etc. Ruchika then opened up the discussion for questions.

Q: What type of activities will go on beside the school?

A: All kinds of manufacturing could go in, but we know that any buildings will be on septic and can’t use significant water; therefore, dry industrial uses are possible. The challenge is that we do not have all the details yet since it is in the very early stages, so we don’t know the usage yet. It is best to direct questions about what industries could come to Mulmur at the Township.

Q: If approved, is there free range to do whatever?

A: Zoning will decide the use of the land. Certain parts of the land could have restrictions. Subdividing the land would come first and zoning second. Once the land is zoned, it will be out of the public’s hands, and we will find out what the uses are.

Q: How many schools have industrial subdivisions in such proximity?

A: I am not sure how many schools have industrial subdivisions so close by, but policies about sensitive uses have specific requirements that need to be met for noise, etc. There also would be yard space between the school and any buildings, and other things can be implemented, such as privacy fencing or sound reduction walls.

There was some discussion on this being the best time to get our voices heard by the Township. It was suggested to write the Mayor of Mulmur, Janet Horner, with any concerns or questions. It was also discussed that there had been no set date for a formal public meeting on this development and to check the Mulmur website for any updates. Ruchika stated a public meeting is required to make a final decision. She mentioned reaching out to the Planning Department at the Township to include the school community in discussions.

Q: What would the timeline look like for the development?

A: I am not sure, and it would be best to contact the Township since we are still reviewing and gathering comments and information. Developments could take anywhere from six weeks to six months.

Q: Would the Board create literature to be sent out to the school community.

A: The Board does not typically do this, but you can send out a link to the township website.

Marianne- I don’t know if we can send it out, but I will speak with the Superintendent to find out, and I am happy to pass on any questions regarding the school.

The discussion was concluded here, and Ruchika thanked us for having her discuss this important topic. She will keep the school updated with any information made available.

**Principal’s Report:**

Marianne reported some exciting fundraising news. Annalea, a parent from the school, and her children have an uncle that runs an auction house. They will be running an auction on March 11th, and all proceeds will be donated to the school Breakfast Program or Playground upgrades. You can visit the auction house website for more information and participation in the auction at [www.kidsfamilyauctions.com](http://www.kidsfamilyauctions.com).

Marianne then mentioned the upcoming PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) Virtual Event on March 2nd from 7-9 PM <https://ugdsb.eventbuilder.com/PIC2022> (to register).

**Teacher’s Report:**

Ashley Hopkins delivered the Teacher’s report. She mentioned Mr. Parsons's class will be building electrical circuits and heading and participating in an energy audit to reduce power production in the school for the Eco-Schools Program.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Colleen had nothing to report but is looking to do more fundraising.

**Eco-Schools Club Update-Ashley/Carli/ Annalea:**

Ashley presented the Eco-Schools report. She is regularly meeting with the other members of the Eco-Schools Club. Sweater Day was a great success, with most students wearing a cozy sweater to school. Mr. Parsons's class helped promote Sweater Day by putting up posters and announcements. Winter Walk Day was also a success. We are celebrating Black History in February. Students from classes will be getting some training from Dufferin Waste to aid them in doing energy audits for their classrooms since we aren’t able to do it as a school at this time. In March, we will participate in The Great Gulp and look for a class to lead that.

Q: Do we know how many points we have?

A: We have to report and officially log the information but will update points as soon as we can.

**Other Business:**

Hot Lunches-Karen let us know that Pizza Day will return on February 25th, run by Carly and herself, and run every Friday until June 10th.

Pasta- Karen asked the group if there was an interest in doing Pasta days again. She mentioned that it is a higher price point than pizza but is less work for the Council and does not require parent volunteers. Pasta comes with four to five choices rotated through the weeks available, is a healthier option, and has zero waste.

Q: Is the pasta coming from a local business?

A: Yes, the Pasta comes from “Simply Pasta” in Orangeville, run by a great guy and one partner, pizza is also very local coming from “New Orleans Pizza” in Shelburne.

Karen also mentioned that the school receives about $10 for each pizza and $0.50 per bowl of pasta.

Marianne said that Centennial Highlands also participates in Pasta days, and to make it easier on the owner, we could look into combining orders for the same day.

Among those present, it was decided to go ahead with pasta days to support more fundraising. A vote was taken in favour of pasta day. More information to come when it is available.

A parent present wanted to know about the Breakfast Program and how it worked or if it required assistance as he is aware of the needs in our school community. Carly Ferris spoke on this. She mentioned that the BP Fund has a healthy balance available and is typically funded through grants and donations. This year, the Equity Fund from the Board, which is generally used to fund trips, was also included in the BP fund. The program itself provides prepackaged healthy snacks, containers of healthy snacks, and full bagged lunches that are available to all students in need and supplements children who have lunches but find themselves needing a little more. The pasta company also would include a few free portions of pasta for those in need or who wanted to feel included but otherwise couldn’t. It was also mentioned that the Equity Fund given by the Board has also helped Primrose provide some school families with essential supports such as gas and grocery gift cards.

The same parent also requested some feedback from the group about mask exemptions. His son was initially granted an exemption from masking, but his GP could not sign off on one for him after the changes in masking rules for Covid in December. He would very much appreciate connecting with any parent or school staff going through a similar situation.

**Fundraising:**

There was a significant discussion on fundraising and what that can look like in the current Covid situation. It was asked if support could be given to the breakfast program through “School Cash Online,” as done in the past. It was mentioned there was an exception made here in December of 2020 because there was no fundraising allowed at all. Marianne said that the Board might not go for this idea since it would be asking families to give that may not have the means to do so, and we would not want anyone to feel this is necessary. Marianne spoke about the general points for fundraising, including:

-fundraising has to be inclusive and meet the needs of everyone

-The fundraising initiative must be clearly stated (Breakfast Program, Scientists in the School, New Playground, etc.)

-promotion of gatherings is not permitted at this time

-we can receive donations (not sure if we can promote/advertise publicly, Marianne is happy to find out for us)

Marianne mentioned that a good practice would be to have a goal at the start of the year. Since the meeting, she has provided Council with materials to help with fundraising. She said she is also happy to receive a list of options to fundraise for approval.

Adjournment:

Carly Ferris adjourned the meeting at 8:14 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 5th, 2022, 6:30 PM

Minutes Submitted By: Melissa Irwin

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.