School Council

Meeting Minutes

April 13th, 2022

**Opening:**

Karen Kennedy called the virtual meeting (due to Covid restrictions) to order at 6:35 PM

**Present:**

Marianne Millsap – Principal

Ashley Hopkins- Vice Principal

Karen Kennedy – Co-Chair

Carly Ferris – Co-Chair

Amber Gallaugher – Vice-Chair

Melissa Irwin-Secretary

Jennifer Robertson-Teacher Rep

Annalea Kidd

Alana Mercury-Conter

Siobhan Bell

Lourdes Mehlhorn

Kathleen Roper

Colleen Russo Johnson

**Welcome:**

Karen Kennedy welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. Karen then asked for the passing of last month’s meeting minutes; the minutes were approved and passed.

**Principal’s Report:**

Marianne first spoke about Kindergarten orientation on the morning of June 3rd (PA Day). There will also be a Kindergarten celebration outdoors the week of June 13th. Parents can bring blankets or chairs, pictures will be taken, and the celebration will be indoors if raining.

Marianne spoke about the annual review of the bell system at the school. She informed bell times will change in September. The school day start time will be 9:00 AM instead of 8:50 AM. Instructional time and the end of the day will remain the same. Instead of two 45-minute lunches, there will be two 40-minute lunches. The changes will allow more time for buses to get to the school. There will still be staff to meet children at 8:30 AM.

A new reading teacher, Kim Crago, will be joining Mrs. Pasmore to give additional help to students struggling mainly in grades 1 and 2. Mrs. Pasmore has done a fantastic job of finding out children’s needs and laying the groundwork for Kim to come in and add additional support. Children currently working with Mrs. Pasmore will remain with her and be supplemented where needed with the help of Kim.

Peter Sovran, The Board Director, is busy trying to visit all schools. He will tentatively be coming for a visit to Primrose on June 2nd from 1:00-2:30 PM. We are hopeful to show all the great things happening here at Primrose.

Grade eight graduation will take place on June 28th. We are meeting with teachers to discuss their thoughts on this day and the creation of a parent committee.

May 2nd-6th Education week.

**Teacher’s Report:**

Jennifer wanted to put out a reminder for parents and children to be checking the announcements each day to keep informed on school happenings. The announcements are also a great place to find positive messages and other vital points that are great for discussion with your child.

A new Primrose Pride Support club has started with Mrs. Symons for grade 7 and 8 students for those who identify with the LGBTQ community and any students who want to be allies. There are also new games clubs for Juniors and Intermediates for students to play games together, build lego, and develop new relationships. The games clubs are headed by Mr. Stiles (Juniors) and Mr. Hawkins (Intermediates).

The School newspaper will be making a comeback. It is called “The Primrose Roar.” Students will be able to feature their writing and photography skills! The newspaper will come in both digital and paper copies.

Students in grades 6-8 have been volunteering their time in the Kindergarten rooms. They have been doing awesome in assisting the younger ones with lunch and recess time while being great role models! A total of 64 students volunteered, and a new sign-up for May and June will be available soon.

From the Teachers:

Mr. Parsons: “My class is busy learning about Canada's Interactions in the Global community. We have learned about specific countries and are now focused on global issues and what groups are doing to help solve some of the issues. We have had some amazing discussions in class - very thought provoking.”

Madame Persaud: “I'm a very happy French teacher this week as I shared the 'fête de musique' that my intermediate classes participated in [as a way to celebrate mois de francophonie] with a contest run by the board, and we have won a prize! (I think everyone won since only a handful of teachers participated, but yay nonetheless!). So we will be getting some new resources for the French department in the coming weeks, very grateful to my students for helping me with that.”

Mrs. Robertson mentioned that our occupational therapist is back to assisting students at the school. Since the Fall, she hasn’t been but will be here every three weeks to help meet students' needs by providing pencil grips, wiggle stools, sensory items, and technology.

There are many teachers away right now, and getting supply teachers has been a challenge, but Ashley is doing a phenomenal job and keeping things going. The number of absences is very high, but please know our teachers are doing their very best to keep up at this time.

**Treasurer’s Report: Karen**

Colleen could not attend this evening. Karen mentioned hot lunches are going very well, and the money raised helps out in many areas the school relies on. Thanks to all the parents for their participation, it has been very lucrative, and we are grateful!

**Playground Update: Amber**

Amber said the current playground has been there since the school was built. It is old, and parts have been lost due to safety concerns. In 2019 a committee was formed to address the need for a new playground and included Amber, Karen, and Annalea. Last May, they worked very hard on a proposal and sent it off to the Board for approval.

They have received approval for the kindergarten phase of the playground, while the rest is still pending. The kindergarten portion will include an adventure play course, logs, balance beams, mud kitchen, store fronts, seating, and a nomo zone. This portion of the playground is estimated to be about $50,000 of the estimated $84,000 for the whole project. Plans could change, but we are hopeful for a summer start to construction.

Q: What type of wood will be used? Will it be pressure treated?

A: Not sure on the exact wood to be used, possibly white pine. This is an all-natural playground; therefore, all components will be made of logs and stumps and follow greening guidelines and CSA. The sandbox does need to be pressure treated as per the Board.

Karen: There are so many regulating bodies that we need to go through for this but be assured that as things come up, we are on it! Great question.

With this approval comes a need to fundraise. We already have about $20,000 and are working on the Big Box of Cards fundraiser and a bottle drive.

This is just the first phase, and there is more to come. We are very excited. The new playground has phases for every age group and interest. A bigger reveal is to come. There will be an explanation out on the yard, brochures, and a site plan. The focus is the kindergarten yard first since they do not have anything in the yard for them. Subscribe to the Facebook page for updates and information <https://www.facebook.com/PrimroseElementarySchool>

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

Things are going well; we are close to Bronze and striving for Platinum Status! Dufferin Waste is set to meet with the Junior and Intermediate reps to do training for a waste audit on April 26th. Our Community Cleanup and Clean your Ditches Week are in full swing. Last year we collected 43 bags of waste and 13 bags of returnables. We can provide masks and gloves. Please don’t forget to record your progress on our form. Please use this link: <https://forms.gle/Pf8bx1fyxw6RumrD7>

Our bottle drive is on April 30th from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.

Mrs. Charles's class took the lead on our Great Gulp initiative and had a great video to share from her class. Mr. Parsons’ class is heading up light usage conservation, and Mrs. Anderson is taking charge of food planting initiatives!

**Other Business:**

Melissa and Karen took the lead in speaking about some fundraising ideas; there were also many ideas from the group. The discussion will be taken offline to decide on two or three ideas to run with. Some options included hot dog/freezie day, cake auction with Spring Fling/BBQ, a readathon, and bake sales. More to come!

**Q&A and Discussion**

There was much discussion on the issue of parking at the school. In particular, a parent brought attention to the disability spots being misused. Marianne apologized for the problem and will be placing pylons in these spots for those who need them the most and figuring out the school transportation van that parks there. She will keep an eye out for passes, include information on the announcements, and get the word out through her Principal’s Message to families.

The Board is aware of the school's parking issues and is looking to extend the parking lot sooner than later, as this is becoming a top priority. This would mean taking out some play space to accommodate additional parking spaces.

The parking lot is a challenge for everyone, and there is no simple answer to all concerns. The most important thing to us is making sure the kids get home safely! Please know the Board is working on it, and we hope some of these issues will get resolved as soon as possible.

**Adjournment:**

Karen Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 8:28 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 11th, 2022, 6:30 PM (Meeting will be virtual, possible in-person for June Meeting)

Minutes Submitted By: Melissa Irwin

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.