School Council

Meeting Minutes

March 9th, 2022

**Opening:**

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

**Present:**

 Marianne Millsap – Principal

 Ashley Hopkins- Vice Principal

 Karen Kennedy – Co-Chair

 Carly Ferris – Co-Chair

 Amber Gallaugher – Vice-Chair

 Colleen Kee – Treasurer

 Melissa Irwin-Secretary

 Jennifer Robertson-Teacher Rep

 Annalea Kidd

 Amy Octalani

 Carly Lang

 Alana Mercury-Conter

 Siobhan Bell

Colleen 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 spoke about mask mandates being lifted and that as of the meeting, the Board is keeping masking in place after the March break. However, she mentioned that may change and will be having a meeting tomorrow to learn more. She will keep the school community up to date with any news.

Grad photo retakes will be scheduled as some students were away. All Shelburne and area schools will do retakes on the same day since only a few students from each school will be there. More info and a date to come.

**Teacher’s Report:**

Jennifer Robertson passed on some comments from the teaching staff. Erika Williamson, who does rotary science for grades 7 and 8, is busy building hydraulic machines such as diggers, cranes, and elevators. All the kids are engaged, and it’s very hands-on. It is an exciting time, and the students are excited to be doing these projects. Mr. Parson’s grade 6 class STEM project is “moving along.” The students are making electric vehicles that aim to reach one meter. They are building, testing, and rebuilding to prepare for a competition/race in the gym and loving it!

Jennifer wanted to pass on thanks from the staff to Council for organizing pizza and pasta days. Parents, students, and staff were all excited for hot lunches to return!

Jennifer mentioned that many supply teachers in the school fill in when teachers are away. She said the admin staff is doing such a fantastic job organizing everything, and things are going very well despite the circumstances.

Kindergarten helpers are retuning soon! Intermediate and junior students will have the option to use their recess to help during lunch in the kindergarten rooms. They will help teachers and custodial staff as they assist in opening containers for the little ones and helping to tidy the classroom.

Jennifer talked about a school-wide push on literacy. Teachers from Kindergarten to grade 8 have been doing lots of assessments, collecting data and sorting through it to determine how to best help students where they are at in their reading journey. Reading buddies has been approved and will also be returning. Ms. Robertson and Ms. Pasmore will be getting things started after March break to pair kids together to benefit one another in their reading. EQAO testing will be happening online for grades 3 and 6, and teachers are helping students prepare.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Colleen stated that early pizza and pasta sales went very well. She said that now we can decide what programs to support because we can help now! She also stated there is usually a little more money in and out but not lately due to Covid, so this is extremely exciting.

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

Carli showed an updated slide with the plan for Eco School points. There are four completed tasks, 5 in progress, and one scheduled to begin soon. Primrose has earned 65 points currently, and after the rest are completed, there will be 95 points, enough for Gold status. If the school wants to shoot for the Platinum status we had pre-Covid, there is still a curriculum-based eco-action to get the school to the 101 points needed. Carli also stated that it had been quite a shift to run the program when parents aren’t allowed in the schools. Ashley and the kids taking the lead have been going very well!

Jen Robertson wanted to let everyone know how excited the kids were to be involved in the eco projects and that many classes created fun ways to select representatives!

**Other Business:**

Spring Bottle Drive-Karen

Karen spoke about the bottle drive that Council had last Spring. There was a lot of parent help to do contactless pick up from the community and one Saturday at the school for drop-off. It was a great way to raise funds and brought in approximately $1600. Since it was a popular initiative to raise funds, Karen asked Marianne to have another one. Marianne said it was very well-run last time and approved doing it again this Spring on a Saturday at the school.

Hot Lunches-Karen

Karen mentioned that hot lunches have been running for three weeks now, and it’s going very well. The numbers are close to pre-covid. They moved to a 4-week order window as it was easier to run than the weekly window. It has been running smoothly so far. Karen and Carly are happy to be back in the school helping these days and are glad to see such happy kids!

Playground Update-Amber

Amber let us know that the playground proposal has unofficially been approved and the contractor selected to do the work! As soon as the proposal is officially supported, there will be a revamp of the yard to make way for a natural play structure. The original play structure will need replacing, but this project is separate.

There will be lots happening in the kindergarten yard, including a sandbox, play storefronts, hanging bars, obstacle course, etc. The Junior and Primary yards will see an obstacle course of logs and stumps, tires for play, seating, and trees for shade. A Gaga-Ball pit will also be added once approved for permanent installation and will go in the Junior and Primary yard but can be used by all students. A portable Gaga-Ball pit is also in the works for use in the gym. There are also plans for a pollinator garden, but we will need to resolve some water issues first.

Amber mentioned that there are many hoops to jump through and red tape, but we are hoping to break ground by summer so that the kindergarten yard will have some new additions come September. There is a lot of fundraising needed for this project as the cost is approximately $90,000. The fund has $20,000 at this point, and we received the maximum of $500 from a Mulmur Township grant and a $35 grant for a grad plaque.

We can’t share any drawings yet because of minor technicalities; however, we will have literature out to the school community as soon as possible.

Q: Are you able to use local artists for design?

A: Unfortunately, we need to use Board approved companies. We used a company called Evergreen, who did the designs and gave pictures for us to use in our proposal. The local contractors we reached out to either did not get back to us or were significantly out of our price range ($200,000).

The contractor we are using is Jason Parks of Parks and Company Landscape Ltd. from Rockwood. He has previous experience with these projects, is Board approved, and will work with us to make this project feasible. We are so lucky he has kept us on his radar while waiting on approvals.

Marianne- A bulletin board will be at the front foyer to show fundraising efforts, before and after pictures of the elements of the project.

Amber mentioned that students did a survey in February 2020 to ask what they would like to have in the yard. Many students were looking for climbing structures. We tried hard to work into our proposal suggestions collected from students within the Board’s guidelines. There is lots more to come, and we will keep you posted as we get more information to share.

**Q&A and Discussion**

-Marianne discussed how the school is struggling to get lunch supervisors. We are allowed to have six and have three right now. Marianne and Ashley have been supervising on lunch every day. The Board knows our needs and has a job posting up. It was discussed that the job posting could be put on our website, Twitter, and Facebook pages with all the information about the job, including wages, times, etc.

- Jennifer Robertson thanked everyone for their patience with the busses and spoke on how amazing the bus drivers were during this time.

-It was asked to Marianne when Graduation would be and what that would look like as the intermediates are excited and ready to start planning and fundraising. Marianne mentioned that she isn’t sure yet about what it will look like but will hear from the Board on how things can go. The date has been chosen, and it is Tuesday, June 28th.

-There has been movement on the sodium levels being rectified at the school. At this point, there will be a meeting with a company to investigate reverse osmosis systems at point-of-use (water bottle fill stations, fountains, etc.) to get rid of the sodium taste. A large-scale system is too expensive, but the Board will likely cover the cost for the point-of-use systems. To start, one will be installed at the water station outside the library and tested for performance. More to come on this.

-The water pressure tank will need to be replaced at the school to accommodate the washrooms to continue functioning properly. All washrooms remain open and functioning.

-There was a question raised of how the decision made at the Board to not follow the province in removing masks from our schools. Marianne mentioned that since the news of lifting mask mandates came through that day, the Board most likely just needs time t process the information and get it out to the schools. She mentioned there was a meeting the following day, and she would share any information from the discussion of masking. (Since the meeting, the Board shared to all UGDSB schools that they would be following the province in lifting mask mandates in schools)

-It was asked if Marianne knew when there would be in-school Council meetings. Marianne will share when she knows when this can happen.

-Marianne mentioned that there would be a focus on Math at the following two staff meetings.

Adjournment:

Carly Ferris adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 13th, 2022, 6:30 PM

Minutes Submitted By: Melissa Irwin

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.