School Council

Meeting Minutes

May 11th, 2022

**Opening:**

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

**Present:**

Marianne Millsap – Principal Jenna Hartlen

Ashley Hopkins- Vice Principal Carli Lang Karen Kennedy – Co-Chair

Carly Ferris – Co-Chair

Amber Gallaugher – Vice-Chair

Colleen Kee-Treasurer

Melissa Irwin-Secretary

Jennifer Robertson-Teacher Rep

Annalea Kidd

Alana Mercury-Conter

Kathleen Roper

Colleen Russo Johnson

Brittany Hooker

**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 the EQAO testing beginning May 24th through June 17th for grades 3 and 6. The students have been practicing each day, and it is going well. The tests are done exclusively online this year.

The grade 8’s have been doing transition visits at the high school to prepare for grade 9.

Jump Rope for Heart will begin in the next two weeks, and all classes will participate. Everyone participating will be entered into the draw for prizes. Donations only, so there is no need to fundraise.

There will be a track and field day coming, more details to come.

Marianne mentioned the school is finishing up Safety Week. There will be two more fire drills, one each of a lockdown drill, tornado drill, and bomb threat drill. The students are always aware that these are drills/practice, but please have conversations with your kids if they are sensitive to the noise or anxious about drills.

We are still expecting Peter Sovran, The Board Director, to visit the school with the Superintendent on June 2nd. Report Cards will go out on June 23rd. JK Orientation will happen on June 3rd from 10-11 AM, and the JK Celebration will be on June 16th. Grade 8 grad is on June 28th.

The Royal Canadian Ukelele Ensemble donated $4000 worth of ukuleles to the school and a year of free access to a learning website. We decided to implement a learning presentation to the teachers at the last staff meeting on how to use the ukuleles so they can help our students learn too.

Voting for the upcoming Provincial Election will be held at the school. We asked that our school not be used, but it will go ahead. Set up will be done on June 1st from 5-9 PM, and voting will take place during the day on June 2nd. Someone from the Board will be coming to facilitate parking on that day.

Karen Kennedy asked for permission to go ahead with purchased and individually wrapped items for a bake sale to be sold on Wednesday, May 18th and Wednesday, June 1st. Marianne approved and will send the information in the next Principal’s message.

**Teacher’s Report:**

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Walt - We are doing flower experiments and learned how seeds work in KB! If you'd like some pictures I'm happy to send them along.

Carson-Pedri - Just some feedback from kindie team....

Pasta days are a bit of a struggle for us. Kids are not eating it, not really liking it. Some hide it, put it in garbage etc. How are other grades liking eat? It feels like a waste of money for our parents. Thanks for passing along our concerns. We LOVE pizza days

Hunter - Just a little feedback for the council meeting regarding pasta day. The kindie kids are not enjoying it and there is a lot of waste and it's being sent home. The red sauce is a bit more popular than the white or Mac n cheese but overall they aren't eating it. Perhaps another food option for next year might be a good idea. Thanks for passing this along for us :))

Prescott - We have quite a few kids not eating it as well. Even with multiple reminders we send out, some families aren't sending in cutlery or Tupperware for the leftovers.

Williamson - Grade 7 science created their own insulated “travel mugs” (coolers lol) for our Heat unit. They chose to keep pop cold or coffee hot. The group that wins gets to choose popsicles or hot chocolate for the whole class.

Grade 8 science investigating cell technology, including cloning, limb regeneration and stem cell therapy. Grade 8 language reading a short story called “The Veldt” and focusing on the inquiry question “Do you control technology or does it control you?”. Great conversations and insights!

Parsons - The students in Portable 1 are very excited to be learning to play the ukuleles. After learning the basics over the past few weeks, they are in small groups learning a song of their own. We can't wait for the performances on Friday.

Charles - My Class participated in the Orangeville Library (in partnership with Family Transition Place) 6 word poem contest during Poetry month. They had a poet, Zehra Ahmed Judge and CF was chosen as one of the winners. Many students from the class were chosen to be featured in the video as well. The students do not know about this yet, I will be telling them all tomorrow.

Cullen (in Ms. Hay and Ms. Jones’s class) - Class is studying butterflies and will raise and release them as part of science. Has paired with Dave Parsons’s grade 6 class for the “Big Backyard Bird Watching” and the kids are loving it.

Jennifer mentioned she got some feedback from one of the kindergarten rooms regarding pasta days. There has been a lot of waste happening, and they wanted to bring it to the council's attention.

There was a bit of discussion around this point and healthier hot lunch/cold lunch options. More discussion will be on this in September; all who want to discuss it are encouraged to join meetings. Mrs. Robertson also had an ask for more notice to teachers about hot dog days so they could promote them through their classrooms.

Activity clubs thrive at recess, with lots of kids participating despite the better weather! The Primrose Roar went out, and all the students who made it come together were so proud of their efforts! Each class received one hard copy and digital copies. Jennifer noted the announcement slide shows and how great they are for bringing about focused discussions on building character.

Following up with Marianne’s discussion of EQAO testing, Jennifer told of how moving to digital testing hasn’t been easy on the kids with navigating all the technology needed. However, there have only been positive attitudes from teachers and students when dealing with challenges. Students must complete two language and math practice tests before the actual test.

The grade 8’s are excited about all things Grad and their transition to high school despite some feelings of anxiety. They have been working on a class yearbook and had input on their class hoodie, which can be personalized and includes the signatures of all classmates.

Intermediate teachers asked Jennifer to remind everyone about the need for indoor and outdoor shoes. For anyone who does not have indoor shoes, we will get a pair to them! The field is still very muddy at times, and we want to ensure we are helping the custodial staff keep our school clean.

A ukulele club started at the school this week, and so far, the kids are enjoying it. As mentioned by Marianne, the school received a donation of ukuleles worth $4000 ($120 each) from The Royal Canadian Ukulele Ensemble. We will have some of our grateful students write a thank you to the Ensemble.

**Treasurer’s Report: Colleen**

Colleen reported that fundraisers were going very well and forwarded a report to Council (Attached), and we are sitting in a good position financially.

There was a question if we paid for FTP for next year yet, and Collen confirmed we had and that we will need to account for it come September for the following year as we pay a year in advance. It was also mentioned that a detailed baseline for fundraising would need to be made clear for the incoming Council in September.

Karen took this time to mention that the “Bottle Drive” was a great success. The bottle drive on April 30th raised approximately $1350! It is a great day that is a lot of work but totally worth it for the funds raised.

**Eco-Schools Club Update-Ashley**

Ashley gave a quick update that we are sitting at Gold status. She sent out a huge thanks to all the moms who have helped get us there! Although we are still reaching for Platinum, we are proud of our efforts despite the challenges this year.

Ashley also mentioned Dufferin Waste came to train students for a waste audit taking place at the school next week.

Annalea let us know the final tally of garbage and recycling collected during the Community Clean-Up.

Ditch Clean Up

17 bags of garbage (204 lb)

9 bags recycling (90 lb)

River Clean Up

11 bags of garbage (132 lb)

4 bags recycling (40 lb)

**Other Business:**

Jennifer mentioned there are some summer school options available to students and some courses the grade 8’s can take over the summer to earn credits before entering high school. More details will be made available soon.

**Q&A and Discussion**

There was an extensive discussion about the school’s drinking water. The sodium levels in the school’s drinking water are incredibly high (568 mg/L). Council and parents in attendance voiced their concerns and displeasure with the lack of any movement forward on the issue. The consensus among those present is the Board process has gone on too long, and action is needed. A sub-committee is suggested to be formed; stay tuned for more information.

Concerns about the septic issues at the school (toilets not flushing) and the overcapacity of students/staff were also discussed. Ashley will also bring these concerns to the Board with regards to the drinking water and septic.

**Adjournment:**

Karen Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 8th, 2022, 6:30 PM

Minutes Submitted By: Melissa Irwin

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.