

School Council
Meeting Minutes
October 5th, 2022

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Karen Kennedy.

Present:

Marianne Millsap – Principal
Ashley Hopkins– Vice Principal
Karen Kennedy-Co-Chair
Carly Ferris-Co-Chair
Amber Gallagher-Vice Chair
Annalea Kidd
Melissa Irwin-Secretary
Carli Lang
Amy Ouchterlony
Christine Wallace
Jenna Hartlen
Colleen Ruso Johnson
Michelle Ferrier
Karamjit Grewal
Bethany De Jong

Stephanie Martin
Heidi Fuller
Lourdes Mehlhorn-Treasurer
Jennifer Robertson-Teacher Rep
Shannon Wright
Adelle Barr-Klouman
Daryl Stansfield
Andrea Gubcol
Andrea Jones
Alana Conter
Brittany Ferrier
Lucita
Erika Williamson
Karanbir Dhillon
Nelly

Welcome:

Karen welcomed everyone and introduced herself. She thanked everyone for coming and pointed out how amazing it was to see so many parents join us. Each person in attendance then introduced themselves.

Principal's Report

Marianne spoke on the Terry Fox Run, mentioning that Primrose raised approximately \$1900. Between online and cash donations, Primrose raised the most donations it ever has for this cause!

Marianne spoke about extracurricular activities being back in full swing. Primrose sent 120-130 students to the Dufferin County Cross Country meet; the most ever to participate from Primrose! Extracurriculars are moving forward as they have pre-covid. Teachers sign up for activities they wish to run and support over lunches and recess times. All activities are posted on the announcements; parents can access them from their child's Google Classroom.

Marianne said she would continue with her monthly newsletters sent to parents via School Messenger and email. Newsletters will come out at the beginning of each month.

Marianne then briefly addressed the water issues at the school. She has spoken with Superintendent Belal Taha, and a meeting date is coming soon. The meeting will be public and encompass the water, the new well, timelines, updates on maintenance and time for Q&A.

Currently, the school has full access to water from the tanker. The tanker is filled every 1-2 days and is equipped with a tracker that indicates when refilling is needed. The pressure is sufficient, all washrooms are working, and measures have been implemented to ensure the water will not freeze as the temperatures fall.

The trailer washrooms have been closed and locked. They will be removed from the tarmac at the end of the month as they are no longer needed.

She clarified that Council meetings are not a place for complaints but to function on behalf of the students and the school in school-related concerns, fundraising, etc. Parents are welcome to contact their child's teacher, VP Ashley Hopkins, or Marianne with any concerns or complaints.

Following School Council procedures, we must keep meetings under two hours. The previous month's meeting minutes are always approved and passed at the next meeting; this ensures the Council and Admin have sufficient time to review them; after approval, the minutes are posted to the School website.

Marianne let everyone know that children will be allowed to wear costumes for Halloween this year. Guidelines will be coming from the Board to address respectful dress-up. She also said there could be a primary parade if teachers choose.

There was a question if the school would have a Boogieathon this year. The Boogieathon was a tradition brought from Centennial Highlands that Primrose adopted. Intermediate students would begin the school year teaching all classes dances so that everyone could participate and know what to do. Raised funds went to support tech in the school.

The Boogieathon would be held in the gym on or near Halloween so the kids could dance in costume. It's a fun and engaging time for students that help fund technology in the school. Marianne explained with all that had been going on at the start of this year, there was not enough time to prepare.

There was also a question about why it wasn't announced that the Cross Country meet was open for primary students in grades one and two. Jennifer Robertson mentioned this is a good reminder for teachers to put on the announcements.

Erika Williamson also mentioned that things were a bit rushed this year, and at first, we were only allowed to bring eight students per division. The rule quickly changed, and the event was open to any student who could run within the time limit.

Initially, students from grades three and up tried out. This year there wasn't a teacher designated for the grade one and two divisions, and those students tried out during their gym

time. The student names who ran within the given time frame were passed on to the teachers leading the event. Next year we will be more prepared and make sure the teacher leading puts it on the announcements!

Teacher's Report-Jennifer Robertson

Jennifer shared thank you notes from the Kindergarten Team and Grade One teachers for the wonderful appreciation gifts from the Primrose community. She also shared a huge thanks from Erika Williamson for the volunteers who came out to help at the Cross Country Meet. We couldn't have "run" it without you!

There was a short discussion about the number of volunteers needed per group of kids. The rules have recently changed, requiring more volunteers on trips. The number of volunteers needed depends on many variables, including bussing, walking, special needs, etc. If you wish to help as a volunteer, please contact Ashley Hopkins to receive a letter to get a Vulnerable Sector Check with the OPP.

Erika Williamson said intermediate volleyball is starting soon for boys and girls. She also asked Jennifer to share that the intermediates had a great time during their "Spirit Week". The students were brought together as a team and ended the week with a hike to Murphy's Pinnacle!

Jennifer spoke about the various clubs that have started and are running. Some clubs include Maker Space, Corking, and Comic and book writing. Sherie Anderson does a fantastic job supporting students and their interests.

Jennifer also mentioned a monologue club with students meeting three times a week in preparation to enter their works into the "Word of Mouth" competition through Streams Community Hub in Shelburne. The contest is open to submissions until October 14th and has two age divisions, 8-12 and 13-17. Students do not have to be a part of the club; they can also enter independently.

Jennifer continued her report with some more things going on in the school. Some highlights include:

- The new Gaga Ball Pit is a huge hit with students; the kids love it, and teachers use it in their DPA. Anyone can play, and all know the rules.
- There has been a lot of testing with students in all classes. These are diagnostic assessments that are interpreted and used by teachers to help teach kids better. The main goal is efficiency in teaching. Students who have similar needs work in small groups.
- There are some ESL (English as a Second Language) students this year, the most Primrose has ever had. A couple of their home countries include Ukraine and Afghanistan.

- The staff are grateful for so many parents coming to meetings!

Treasurer's Report- Lourdes Mehlhorn

Karen Kennedy welcomed Lourdes as Council's new Treasurer. Marianne had given a detailed account of the financials at the Election meeting. Lourdes gave only the necessary updates. The Meet the Teacher BBQ raised approximately \$1200, but there are some expenses to come off. There was some discussion about the winter clothing account that has roughly \$350. The winter clothing account was made during covid because so many restrictions existed. Teachers and staff used it to purchase what was needed for students who didn't have warm winter clothing, such as gloves, hats, coats, boots, etc. The leftover money is there and can be used for the same purpose.

Eco-Schools Report- Ashley

Ashley spoke about how the Eco Club had their first meeting just before the Council meeting. They discussed their plans for the year, including having the goal of reaching Platinum status once again this year. They are looking to have student Eco-Reps for each class and getting back to gardening, harvesting sunflower seeds with the SKs and planting garlic.

They are looking to grow the Eco Club community and require some volunteers. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Ashley.

Other Business

Fundraising

Karen spoke first about Pasta Days not returning this year. The owner of the company we used is not running at this time. There is a possibility we could run a pasta day using the school kitchen, but it will need to be looked into further. Funds would need to be raised, the kitchen would require approval by Public health, and volunteers would be needed. A soup day was also discussed, and the salad bar for Salad Day to be brought back. Karen mentioned that these initiatives would also require subcommittees to focus on implementing them.

A subcommittee discussion prompted an email sign-up sheet to be passed around for those interested in getting involved. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact the Council at primroseschoolcouncil@gmail.com.

Karen spoke on Pizza Day, returning on October 21st. It is ready to go on School Cash Online. This year we will be doing orders one date at a time and getting strict with last-minute orders. Logistically speaking, last-minute orders are difficult to add when the system has closed orders because they must be done manually. Milk days will also be returning, and more information will come out soon.

Amber then discussed doing a Domino's Pizza (Shelburne) Fundraising night. We would need to promote this on our own as a school, it is minimal risk, and the school could earn up to 50% of the sales.

Amber motioned the subject to a vote, and most of those in attendance voted yes to giving Domino's Pizza Night a try. Amber will submit the request, and the funds raised will go toward the next phase of the playground.

Many more fundraising opportunities were brought up and will be added to a list that can move on to subcommittees. If anyone has fundraising ideas, please contact primroseschoolcouncil@gmail.com.

Breakfast with Santa

Marianne began the discussion on Breakfast with Santa. This event has been a fundraiser Primrose has had for the last 20+ years. The event is allowed to move forward, but Marianne mentioned the issue of having it named "Breakfast with Santa." She suggested that the event still include Santa, but a name change will be necessary in the future to comply with inclusivity to our school's diverse population. She offered the name could be "Holidays in the Hills." She suggested that now would be a good time to change the name since we have not held this even in the last few years. In the grand scheme, she said we must be sure that the event is inclusive to all.

Carly continued the conversation and gave an overview of what the "Breakfast with Santa" event has looked like in past years. Some of the highlights of the event include:

- Pancake breakfast served by teachers buffet style in the gym \$20 per family
- Bake Sale
- Silent Auction
- Treasure Trays (themed baskets made by each class raffled off at the event)
- Vendor Market
- "Kids Only Room" (students can purchase small gifts for family or friends)
- Cookie Decorating
- Choir Performances
- A local Fire Department with a fire truck sometimes sells Christmas trees
- Pictures with Santa on stage in Gym
- Food Bank donations bin
- Toy Drive

The discussion then moved on to planning. Since this is a massive project, it needs a strong lead and subcommittee team. Shannon Wright offered to take this on alongside Carly, and a subcommittee will be formed. The date has been chosen and will be Saturday, December 3rd, 2022.

Playground-Amber

Amber quickly went over the essential points concerning the Natural Playground. Phase One is now complete, a total of \$33,000. A total of \$62,000 must be fundraised by the end of summer 2023 to keep things moving. If we cannot raise this amount, the proposal will require resubmission to the Board and could take many months to be approved.

Please get in touch with Amber (Primrose Outdoor Improvement Committee) for fundraising ideas by email at primroseoic@gmail.com.

If anyone would like to donate to the Playground, the best way is through "Canada Helps." Use this link <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/upper-grand-learning-foundation/> and select "Primrose Elementary School-Playground" from the drop-down menu.

Please note that if you use a credit card through the website, 2.75% will go towards administrative fees and come off your donation amount. The most effective way to donate is to mail a cheque to:

Upper Grand Learning Foundation
500 VICTORIA ROAD NORTH
GUELPH, ON N1E 6K2

Please include a note to direct the funds to "Primrose Elementary-Playground."

Closing-

Karen finished the meeting by letting everyone know that if you have older children who have taken the Babysitters Course, they are welcome to get in touch to help watch the younger ones during Council Meetings. A flat rate of \$20 will be paid to the student babysitting.

Adjournment:

Marianne adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Minutes Submitted By: Melissa Irwin

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.

Next Meeting Set For: Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons (Library)