

School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 2nd, 2023

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm by Karen Kennedy.

**Present:**

Marianne Millsap – Principal  
Ashley Hopkins– Vice Principal  
Karen Kennedy-Co-Chair  
Carly Ferris-Co-Chair  
Annalea Kidd  
Carli Lang  
Amy Ouchterlony  
Kathleen Roeper

Lourdes Mehlhorn-Treasurer  
Jennifer Robertson-Teacher Rep  
Adelle Barr-Klouman  
Amber Gaullaugh  
Melissa Irwin-Secretary  
Alana Conter  
Romena Singh

**Welcome:**

Karen welcomed everyone, introduced herself, and asked if everyone in attendance would introduce themselves.

The January 24th Meeting Minutes were passed.

**Principal's Report**

Marianne gave an update on the bus accident on the 4th Line of Mulmur. The bus slid into a ditch due to poor road conditions. The driver kept everyone safe and the stress level low. Most students got home safely on another bus. Support will be available to students if needed.

Our second Salad Bar day was a great success, serving 117 students. The grade eight's were a wonderful help.

The "Big Crunch" will take place on March 9th.

"THE GREAT BIG CRUNCH is a Canada-wide movement and annual moment of anti-silence in which students, teachers, parents and others passionate about food join the food movement and crunch into apples (or other crunchy fruit or vegetable) to make noise for healthy school food! Every year since 2008, Canadians from coast to coast have participated in the Great Big Crunch, an original initiative of FoodShare Toronto." Visit <https://www.healthyschoolfood.ca/great-big-crunch> for more information.

The French program “Fete” is coming to the Learning Commons on March 21st and 22nd for grades 4,5 and 6. Funding for the program may come from the Board; therefore, the grant mentioned in December’s meeting and Council’s help may not be necessary.

The first “Movie Night” is coming to the gym on March 30th. Popcorn and concessions will be available for purchase. More information is to go out to parents by email.

## **Teacher’s Report-Jennifer Robertson**

### **Teacher Input for School Council - March 2, 2023**

**Parsons** (Grade 6) - We are excited to start building electrical circuits soon. That will lead nicely to our electric car project. Who can get their car to drive the length of the gym?

#### **Williamson Science**

**Grade 8** - Check out fluid devices in front foyer case. Starting Cells unit and will have some hands on activities, as well as rap/songs for your listening pleasure.

**Grade 7** - Learning about paper chromatography, finishing up pure substances and mixtures. Structures is next... so much building to come!

**Grade 1 - Math:** Doubles, Doubles +1, Problem Solving: adding and subtracting two digit numbers

Language: Writing using different punctuation, it is so exciting! Adding detail to our writing by including who, what, where, when, why details.

Health: Personal safety and injury prevention unit

Introducing drama in term 2

**Grade 4** - Some students had a lot of fun screaming to make salt crystals dance on a bowl covered in cling wrap, to show how sound causes vibrations!

Here are some of our [Black Heritage](#), [Black Brilliance](#) and [Black Futures](#) slides

#### **Mrs. Scott**

**Art:** Value (using only pencil and shading- added to our BHM slide)

#### **Extracurricular activities currently in progress:**

- Grade 7/8 girls and boys basketball (tryouts last and this week) - season starting soon
- Grade 5/6 sideline basketball (43 junior students + 12 grade 8 helpers) - five practices then an after school tournament at Laurelwoods Elementary School on March 7
- Pride Club
- JEDI Club - Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion
- Healthy Schools Team, “You’re The Chef” program
- Skills Ontario - small groups of students will work on tech challenges (eco design, Lego mechanics, robotics, construction, video creation, etc.) Students applied for positions on

the teams and were chosen based on their interests. Skills Ontario is a province-wide competition that takes place on April 4. Our school will be competing against approximately 45 other schools from our school board.

- Eco team and helpers
- Kindergarten helpers
- Bus patrollers
- Snack bin volunteers
- Grade 8 helpers for junior basketball
- Grade 8 sign changers
- Puma PAC - 12 representatives from grades 6-8

The primary division is asking if school council would consider funding Scientists in the School workshops to align with the Ontario curriculum. The total cost for grades 1-3 would be \$2115 with the Kindergarten cost of about \$900.

The primary division is also asking if the school council would consider funding a visit from “Little Red Theatre” for a presentation of Thumbelina. The total cost would be: \$700, and all students K-3 will be part of the presentation.

The Kindergarten team is also requesting butterfly kits to complement their science programs, where students learn about the butterfly life cycle in real life in each classroom.

It was suggested that primary staff members ask Brittany Hooker (Shelburne library) about another company offering a similar hands-on science program that may be more affordable.

Q: Is there another way to notify parents of extracurricular activities besides Google Classroom?

A: The best way to check for extracurricular activities is through the announcements on your child's Google Classroom. Sheri Anderson mentioned that she creates the announcements as a template for the week, and teachers can update it throughout the week. You can check in daily to see updates. Marianne offered to add the activities to the website to give parents an idea of what is upcoming.

Sherie Anderson shared a slideshow on Black History Month and a small presentation of authors visiting the school and interacting with students. The authors are Amaya James, Steve Anderson, and Jael Richardson.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lourdes gave an update for January and February.

Most accounts remained the same, with the exception of spirit wear sales and the pizza account.

Pizza for January had an approximate sale of \$2,192.50 with the expenses for pizza at \$1660. February's total of \$14,921 includes prepaid sales with an approximate expense of \$2,550.00.

Lourdes will provide profits without prepaid sales next month. The \$305 from the Dominos fundraiser and \$50 from the bottle return donation was added to the Yard Improvements Account, bringing the balance to \$6,162.60

### **Traditional Playground Discussion**

Amber discussed the broken slide on the traditional playground. One of the slides has a hole in it; unless it is fixed or removed, the structure will not be able to open for use in Spring. She said she received a quote for the removal of the slide.

Amber also noted that the playground structure (installed in 1994), in general, is in decline, and the cost for replacement could be above \$50K without including installation.

Karen said there would be enough in the Pizza account to replace the slide.

A vote took place, and the majority voted to replace the slide using funds from the Pizza account. More information will be shared about this project after a follow-up with a playground inspector through the Board.

### **Eco-Schools Report- No Report this month**

### **Other Business**

#### **Water Update-Carli**

Carli explained the Primrose Water Committee has been meeting regularly to facilitate and communicate questions regarding water quality at Primrose to the Board. One of the committee's most recent concerns is flushing practices and lead content in the water at Primrose. Carli gave a presentation for Council (see below) to share the findings and updates with the next steps and resources.

## Infrastructure Updates

### Completed

- Well connected
- New Water Softeners
- New Pressure Tanks

### Scheduled Summer 2023

- New Drinking Water Fountains (6 - 4 replaced, 2 added)
- Reverse Osmosis Filters(point of use) added to all fountains and 2 kitchen sinks.
- Kitchen faucets replaced (2)

## Well Water Quality Updates

Analyte	Well Results	Aesthetic Guidelines
Sodium*	441 mg/L	200 mg/L (20 mg/L for low salt diet)
Chloride*	860 mg/L	250 mg/L
Iron*	0.785 mg/L	0.3 mg/L
Aluminum*	0.744 mg/L	0.1 mg/L

\*Reverse osmosis filters will remove sodium, chloride, iron and aluminum from drinking water.

# Lead Testing & Flushing

## Testing Requirements

All schools and daycares are required to conduct annual tests of 'standing' and 'flushed' water samples from drinking water fixtures.

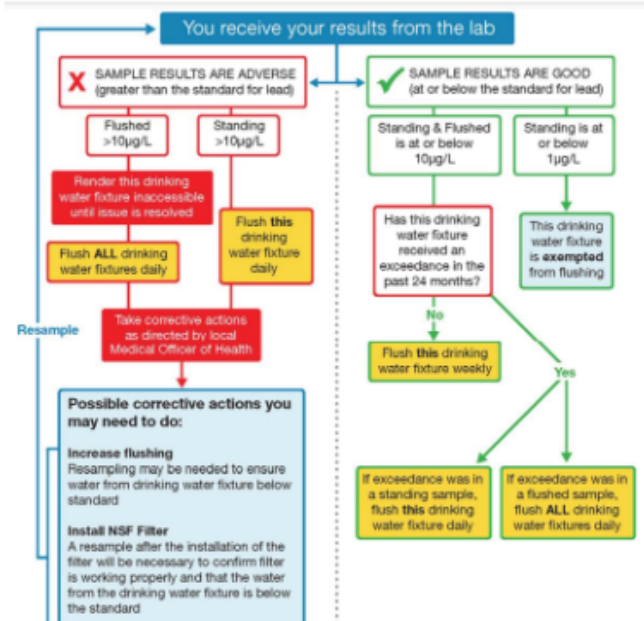
## Flushing Requirements

'Flushing' (running taps for 5 mins) is required on a weekly or daily basis depending on the level of lead found in the samples.

## Guidelines

Ontario Drinking Water Quality Guidelines - 10 µg/L

Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines - 5 µg/L



## Flushing at Primrose

**Based on Provincial Guidelines** (10 µg/L)

2 fixtures should be flushed daily (2 kitchens)

24 of 28 fixtures should be flushed weekly

The UGDSB has recently been made aware that routine flushing has not been occurring. They are working with Primrose and custodial staff to ensure flushing happens regularly.

## Lead Facts

- Lead in drinking water is mostly from the corrosion of fixtures (taps), brass plumbing, solder or the pipe that connects the building to the well or city main water line.
- Lead exposure can also come from other environmental factors: food, toys, paints
- Lead accumulates in the body so low level exposure becomes a risk through repeated exposure
- Children under 6 most at risk of toxic effects of lead (ie intellectual, neurological and behavioural effects).
  - Children absorb 40-50% of an oral dose compared to 3-10% for adults
- Health Canada recommendations:
  - "Lead levels should be kept as low as reasonably achievable."

## Next Steps at Primrose

- Students and staff should drink from the bottled water brought into the school
  - Signs posted at every tap as a reminder that water is not for drinking.
- After completion of work this summer, new drinking fountains and kitchen faucets in combination with Reverse Osmosis filters will be safest places to get water for consumption.
  - Repeated tests and verification of flushing logs will verify this.
  - UGDSB [Annual Testing reports](#)

## Additional Resources

- Health Canada Documents
  - [Drinking Water Guideline Document](#)
  - [Lead & Health Document](#)
- Lead info flyers
  - [US Government Information](#) (Detailed overview of sources of lead in drinking water and how to learn more about lead in your home).
  - [EPA Lead Sources in Drinking Water](#)
- [Detailed background on lead](#) (US department for Health and Human Services)
- [Fix Our Schools](#) (Ontario parent-led advocacy group)
  - [Interview](#) with the founder

Jennifer Robertson asked if Carli would come and present at the next staff meeting on April 13th, to which she agreed.



## Q&A

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes Submitted By: Melissa Irwin

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.

Next Meeting Date: **Thursday, April 13th at 6:30 PM** in the Learning Commons (Library) and online (link provided before the meeting)