

**School Council
Meeting Minutes
November 2nd, 2023**

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm by Amber Gallagher.

Present:

Marianne Millsap – Principal
Ashley Hopkins– Vice Principal
Amber Gallagher - Chair
Kelly Dean - Vice Chair
Jeannette French-Community Rep
Dana Clayton
Sherie Anderson
Carli Lang
Jacalyn Goodwin

Lourdes Mehlhorn-Treasurer
Jennifer Robertson-Teacher
Susan Hall - Co-Chair
Amy Ouchterlony - Secretary
Adelle Barr-Klouman
Allison Kennedy
Karen Kennedy
Annalea Kidd

Attending Online:

Kristi Williams
Erin Downey
Carly Ferris

Kathleen Alberton
Kourtey Chappel

Welcome:

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

Council passed the September Meeting Minutes.

Going forward, minutes will be approved by executive by email. Once approved, they will be posted online to be more readily available at an earlier date.

Principal's Report

Marianne suggested the following as "Norms" / Practices for School Council:

The focus of all meetings is to discuss School Council business and Updates (such as fundraising, promoting positivity in the school, etc.). We will work as a team to strive to follow these norms:

- **Stay Engaged**
- **Respect timelines** - The Chair will ensure the agenda is followed. Meetings will not run past 1.5 hours. If agenda items are incomplete, they will be deferred to the next meeting

- **Monitor your contributions.** Be aware that everyone has had the time and space to share. Additional questions and comments can be shared at the end of the meeting during general discussion
- **Recognize** how your own social location (e.g., race, class, gender, sexuality) informs your perspectives and reactions.
- **Motions** – there will be a 1st, 2nd and approval. It will be Indicated in the minutes very clearly who has first, second and approved each motion or if the motion was opposed.

Other things to Note:

- The Agenda will always be set a week before the Council Meeting and will not be changed. Additional items can be added to the next month's agenda if they happen to come up.
- Concerns outside of Council can be addressed with Administration directly.

Colour House Days

Mixed the whole school up into house groups, did cheers and chants.
Mix of ages gave leadership opportunities

Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair B-ball happening next week for accessibility week. Grade 6,7,8 involved. Will be done every 3 years to catch all students.

Teacher's Report-Jennifer Robertson

Babysitters should contact Mrs. Robertson if they are available on School Council meeting dates.

Announcements Slideshow - reminder to check it daily to see what is happening at Primrose, great learning to support curriculum and special events/days of recognition

Sports - Currently have a grade 7/8 boys volleyball team, grade 7/8 girls' volleyball team and a co-ed junior volleyball team

Arts - Our **grade 4-8 choir** is currently 60 members strong and has been rehearsing twice or three times a week preparing for our upcoming events. We will be singing a beautiful piece in two-part harmony at our Primrose Remembrance Day in-school student assembly, accompanied by our volunteer pianist, Colin Irving. We have also been asked to share our voices at the **Mansfield Cenotaph, on Saturday, November 11th**. Families are welcome to attend the outdoor Saturday morning event. Details will be sent home soon, but we are honoured to be asked to support this special ceremony in our community. We are also preparing a song to once again enter the **CBC Music Class Challenge**. We look forward to creating a music video of a fun and upbeat Canadian pop song by Carly Rae Jepsen!

Our **grade 1-3 choir** has over 100 small but mighty singers, and we are thrilled to hear them sing, as we prepare a beautiful song of peace for our Primrose Remembrance Day in-school student assembly. We are also learning two other fun and empowering songs written by Canadian artists, and look forward to sharing them later this year!

Primary Intramurals - Students in grade 1-3 are welcome to join in for some fun and cooperative games in the gym on days 3 and 5 (second break). Primary Intramurals start this Thursday (day 5). Details can be found each week on the morning announcement slides. (114 kids came out today!)

Acknowledging the Land - Primrose Kindergarten students have been expressing their acknowledgment and appreciation of the land in their first Student of the Day project through photographs. The goal is for the children to find something that they are thankful for in nature, take a photo of it and explain why it is meaningful to them. Then their families share the photos with us. The children are so excited to share and talk about their photographs. The Kindergarten team wants to thank the Primrose Kindergarten families for making this project such a great experience!

Grade 9 Volunteers - "Bring Your Kid To School" Day - Primrose hosted five students as they experienced life in elementary school from an educator's perspective.

Salad Days, Pizza Days - a big hit with students and much appreciated

Gaga Ball Pit - still very busy and enjoyed each recess time and during DPA

Pita Pit Pitas and Smoothies - we have started our grade eight student fundraiser to raise money for grade eight graduation, thank you to everyone is supporting this

Food Boxes - thank you to the team who organized this fundraiser... delicious, local, healthy, and profitable!

Black and Orange or Hallowe'en Day - fun, light and successful morning parade, raised spirits at the school. With an alternative space for students who would prefer to opt out

Treasurer's Report

Lourdes provided a monthly account summary as of Nov 2nd

Month-end Closing Balance: \$16,522.37

- Pizza - \$8,382.85

- Playground Maintenance - \$4,458.81

- Eco \$559.24

- Winter Clothing \$347.46

- General \$522.73

- Yard Improvements – \$2,251.28

Slide purchase (\$6,098.95) was more than we originally expected due to a change in design and needing to move the footings.

Discussion of pending inspection of new elements in schoolyard and toy storage in the yard.

Some remaining funds (due to a quote coming for less than expected) may be used to make a bench with toy storage near the kindergarten sandbox.

Eco-Schools Report- Ashley

Here are some updates to Eco Schools

- We are working on our plan for this coming year to obtain our Platinum status
- Julie Di Felice, Adam Hawkins and Sam Croteau will be helping out with Eco-Schools
- Eco-Reps have been chosen from each class to help with recycling and compost in each room; these eco-reps will also be in charge of helping us with Primrose's initiatives for Eco-Schools this year.
- Our initiatives this year are: The Great Gulp, Waste-Free Lunch, Conducting a Waste Audit, Pollinator Garden, Goos Paper, Grow a Food Garden, Tree Planting and Maintenance at School, Sit Spot, Sort Your Waste, Switch Off Lights and Devices, WWF National Sweater Day, Low Mow Zone, WWF Earth Hour, Eco-Friendly Meals, Earth Day, Get Cooking and Young Reporters For the Environment.
- Our focus is to have student-led initiatives and have students take a leadership role in sustainability
- Parents have been inquiring about Project 2050. Here is a list of initiatives of initiatives we could complete. We need to complete 3 in order to be eligible.
 - Active and Sustainable School Travel
 - Divert Textile Waste
 - Heating and Cooling
 - Eco-Friendly Meals
 - Reduce Your Food Waste
 - Sort Your Waste
 - Switch Off Lights and Devices
 - Tree Planting and Maintenance at School
 - Vermicomposting and School-based Composting
 - Waste-free Lunch

More info about Project 2050 will be coming in the November newsletter

Business from Executive

Fundraising Committee

- Have met once to share ideas
- Lots of meals / food right now with Gr 8, so those ideas are on pause for now
- Coffee & Poinsettia – to purchase outdoor toys, balls, skipping ropes, etc. for each classroom to have a class set
- Movie nights – Last year, these family events where movie is shown in the gym with concessions sold. May revisit in some form for this year.
- Anyone interested in participating in fundraising committee can contact primroseschoolcouncil@gmail.com
- Proposals for fundraisers can be brought to this committee

Discussion of lunch options being offered more than we currently do.

To consider: financial accessibility for families, time taken out of class, volunteers needed, waste generated

Available Funds for Instructional Programming

Approx \$6000 in general fund – Amber suggests this is put toward instructional support (Scientists in Schools, Forest of Reading, programming) now rather than waiting until the end of the year.

FTP and Forest of Reading are paid in February/March for the following year.

MOTION: to invite teachers to request funding to support their programming AND to request items for outdoor play (DPA, recess) by December 1st

Think ahead for the year

1st : Jeannette

2nd : Lourdes

MOTION APPROVED

Kathleen Alberton asked about program called Reflex Math – games to help students learn about math. Marianne explained programs need to be approved by the board and will look into it.

Kathleen asked if more Chromebooks be purchased with this money. Farm Food Box was towards technology. \$400-500 per Chromebook, need to be purchased through the Board.

Available Funds for Teachers

Amber asked if a lump sum (approx \$100) were to be given to each teacher to support purchases for the class (materials, books) if receipts are submitted – approximately how much would this amount to?

23 classes – would need to earmark \$2300

32 teachers – does not include EAs & ECEs

Up to 50 educators if all are included – therefore \$5000 max

Good to have this expense range in mind when considering this offer being made.

It was suggested to hold off until the next meeting to decide. Will be voted on next meeting with a deadline to submit receipts.

PUMA PAC

Two students from each class Gr 6-8

Plus 2 members from Pride, JEDI, Eco-Club, Mental Health

Charlie French leads the PUMA PAC

Plan to meet every other week.

Act as representatives of the students, make requests and suggestions

START, STOP and CONTINUE chart is being created.

Some requests have been implemented.

Lots of interest from students

Asked them for Clubs they would like to have

Celebrating some teachers, interested in tutoring younger students

PUMA PAC reps will come to the upcoming School Council meeting to give an update.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Minutes Submitted By: Amy Ouchterlony

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday December 6th 6:00pm