

**School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
December 6th, 2023**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Amber Gallagher.

**Present:**

Marianne Millsap – Principal  
Ashley Hopkins– Vice Principal  
Amber Gallagher - Chair  
Kelly Dean - Vice Chair  
Jeannette French-Community Rep  
Carly Ferris  
Adelle Barr-Klouman  
Kourtney Chappel  
Andrea Jones-Atkinson  
Shannon Wright  
Karen Kennedy  
Charlie French - PUMA Pac Rep

Lourdes Mehlhorn-Treasurer  
Jennifer Robertson-Teacher Rep  
Susan Hall - Co-Chair  
Amy Ouchterlony - Secretary  
Online:  
Crystal Duchesne  
Romena Singh

**Welcome:**

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

Equity Statement was read.

Norms were reviewed.

Land Acknowledgement was shared.

Charlie - PUMA Pac Rep

Explained how the PUMA Pac works

Meet every two weeks - what students want to STOP, START and CONTINUE

- Students would like “special days” - ice cream, popcorn, popsicles, milk program
- Carnival Day - all students get to do a carnival at the school, winter games day, festival day
- Clubs - we have several but would be nice to have some more to get started (coding club, film editing and recording club, chess club, cooking, art, knitting) - could the parent council help with this (either by using contacts or volunteering to run a club)
- PUMA Pac made a digital google form for teachers to give feedback on how DPA was going (what equipment is needed)
- DPA feedback from students - seemed to be too free, rather than a whole class activity which could be more engaging
- Flag football flags were identified as a need that would get a lot of use

- Grade 4 students have been left out of intramurals, will be working to include them

Clubs that already exist:

JEDI and PRIDE club are the two that exist right now

Student Newspaper - grades 4-8

**Any parents have a talent they are keen to share? Clubs typically run during nutrition breaks - can be either 20 min or, if they bring their lunch it can run for 40 minutes**

Question about Carnival - during the school day or as a community event?

Career Day was great, kind of like that, where students get to choose what they do

### **Principal's Report**

Maple Grove fundraiser correction: should have gone to the General account, will fix that.

Fire Hall donated \$1020 for Breakfast program

Searchlight Service Dogs \$1000 to Breakfast program

Holiday Helpers 14 families are being supported

Celebration of Student Success

Book Fair was a success

Office Helpers - grade 7 students will be learning to do some office tasks

Healthy Schools Grant - applied for mental health tools for the classroom, got \$500 grant

Colour House Week - making holiday cards for Seniors Centres in Shelburne

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

Babysitters available at School Council Meetings

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

Primary Intramurals Continuing - Students in grade 1-3 are welcome to join in for some fun and cooperative games in the gym. Details can be found each week on the morning announcement slides.

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

Pita Pit Pitas and Smoothies - continuing for December, thank you to everyone for supporting this, good leadership opportunity for kids who have to sort, label, deliver. Will discuss continuing this in the new year.

Volleyball - congratulations to both grade 7/8 teams on making it to the finals

Badminton - for junior and intermediate students, happening during recesses

Intramural Basketball - happening during recesses for older students

Grade 5s and 6s: We are excited for the "Knights In The Classroom" in January. Grade sixes are working in our LLC's Maker Space next week on coding and robotics.

Book Fair

Our Scholastic book fair was very successful. We earned about \$4300 in "product points". This means we can spend our profits in the Scholastic catalogues. We will buy consumable supplies for our Maker Space, books, lots of book tape for repairs, and items to support our STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) goals. It was AMAZING to have so many volunteers - THANK YOU! It was also fun connecting and getting to know the volunteers in the quieter moments.

Primrose Roar - Upon suggestion from the Puma PAC, students in grade 4-8 have restarted the student newspaper. Our deadline for submissions is December 15 and we hope to publish our newspaper before the winter break.

Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Basketball - Both very successful events with lots of participation to build awareness of new sports.

French Virtual Hour-Long Presentations about Music and Metis History - for grades 6, 7 and 8, sponsored by the board and scheduled for later in December

Highschool Visits - coming to Primrose to help with grade 9 course awareness before selection in January, starting to use My BluePrint, grade 8 family night at CDDHS

CBC Music Videos - Our grade 4-8 choir and our grade 1-3 choir entered the CBC Canadian Music Class Challenge, preparing a song from the set list of Canadian artists and creating videos to submit. This is a cross Canada contest and there were over 190 entries in our older choir's category and over 120 entries in our primary choir's category. This morning the TOP TEN in each category were announced... and our Primrose Primary Singers were recognized on the CBC website as being in the TOP TEN. We are so proud of our singers!

[CLICK HERE FOR CBC SITE](#)

## **Treasurer's Report**

Lourdes provided an account summary

-Classroom - unchanged

-Eco \$559.25

-Winter - \$347.46 - will be purchasing 18 pairs of waterproof mitts to keep in the office

-Pizza- \$5353 \*

-General- \$5785.58 - took out babysitting money for the year

-Playground- \$4458.81

-Yard Improvements - \$3779.98 - Mochaberry and Poinsettia Sales included

Bank Balance \$31,103.32

\* 10 extra pizzas got ordered for Dec 1st due to the School Cash confusion to ensure that all students got pizza to eat - this expense will come out of the Pizza account.

Poinsettia sales raised \$1118.70 and Mochaberry Coffee sales raised \$623 for a total of \$1741.70 to purchase new outdoor play equipment for each class.

## **Eco-Schools Report- Ashley**

Pop Tabs challenge was successful

- Being donated to Robert Hampson Fund - to Easter Seals for Wheelchairs for Kids

Dufferin Waste presented to kindergarten, will return for Grade 1 next month

## **Fundraising Committee**

Hot Lunch Options being considered - Kelly

- Maple Grove
- Boston Pizza
- Easy Meals

Boston Pizza:

Profit is 12%

We can decide on menu option to offer: Burgers, Pasta, Gluten-free options (\$4.30 - \$6.50 price range)

Plan to offer on Tuesdays when Salad Bars are not running

Will need 2 helpers to run Boston Pizza

If we want to consider local business options (ie. Maple Grove, School Days Cafe)

- Forms from Marianne to become an approved vendor

Perhaps we do a trial for Boston Pizza for a period of time while getting other businesses researched / approved. Would be nice to support local businesses if possible instead of offering more options from larger food chains.

Question about whether Pitas and Smoothies will continue - to be determined.

## **MOTION**

**Can we run a trial of Boston Pizza for a month in the New Year?**

**First - Amber**

**Second - Carly**

**APPROVED**

Could we do another Food Box fundraiser? Jeannette and Marianne will follow-up.

Movie Nights - Shannon

- Possibility of outside of school (Imagine and Circle Theatre)
- Question about capacity being considered
- Pre-movie party, treasure trays
- End of February, End of April being proposed as timing
- Quoted \$250 for rental - to be confirmed with numbers

Two ways of seeing it:

- 1) Community Event as the focus with less concern about fundraising
- 2) Maintain needing it to be profitable to raise money for school

IF we make it less expensive, more people would come and enjoy

Need to cover the costs

Get a clearer sense of financials and decide in January about location.

For now:

**MOTION: To run a Movie Night either at Primrose or at Centre Dufferin High School**

**First - Susan**

**Second - Lourdes**

**APPROVED**

PIC Grant / Family Wellness Night Proposal - Amy

We have access to a \$500 grant for Parent Involvement.

Amy offered a few suggestions:

- Host a Wellness Night at the school: Provide a simple dinner (pasta & salad) and offer a series of workshops in break-out rooms for parents and students
- Potential resources include The Edify Centre (Orangeville), ScreenStrong, and Dufferin Child and Family Services.

Amy provided a proposal with information and links (see **Appendix A**). Check that out and bring any other ideas for the PIC grant to the next meeting when we will vote on how to spend the money and whether to go forward with this proposal.

### **Vote on spending to support instruction in classrooms**

Scientists in Schools Gr K-4 \$249/class approx \$3735

### **Vote to provide Scientists in Schools programs for 2024**

**First - Karen**

**Second - Kelly**

**APPROVED**

Family Transition Place Gr 5-8 \$630 /class approx \$5040

(This is a high-end estimate, may be less if there are fewer Gr 5-8 classes)

### **Vote to provide FTP programs - to pay in spring for 2025**

**First - Lourdes**

**Second - Shannon**

**APPROVED**

### **Other Business**

Shannon offered to be a parent liaison for the Grad Committee.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Minutes Submitted By: Amy Ouchterlony

Minutes Approved By: Executive & Admin.

Next Meeting Date: **February 1st at 6pm**

## APPENDIX A

# **Proposal – Family Wellness Evening at Primrose**

### **Idea:**

Host an evening with workshops for parents and students to participate on topics related to wellness (mental health, anxiety, depression, screen over-use and social media safety, bullying, empowerment)

We could offer a simple dinner (pasta, salad bar, ...) to entice people to come and create a welcoming and community spirit.

### **Goals:**

- Parent Engagement at the school
- Connect with resources in the community supporting Student (& Family) Wellness
- Community building

### **Potential Resources:**

The Edify Centre, Orangeville - <https://www.edifycentre.ca/workshops-training>

- Workshop team could come to deliver a series of workshops for parents and students (approx. \$400 depending on number of workshops, etc)
- Could poll parent community on topics of interest (using SurveyMonkey)
- Has been done at other local schools, well-received
- Would provide information/resources on the programs they offer

ScreenStrong - <https://screenstrong.org/kidsbrainsandscreens/>

- *“ScreenStrong helps parents around the world prevent and reverse their children’s dependence on addictive screens. They help empower parents by explaining the science and identifying solutions that address the problem at its core.”*
- ScreenStrong’s Toronto Ambassador could deliver a 2-hour workshop on “Kids Brains and Screens” to interested parents for \$150.

Dufferin Child and Family Services -

<https://dcafs.on.ca/services/allservices/child-youth-mental-health/>

- Initiative for developing Youth Wellness Hub in Dufferin County (could invite someone to tell families more about it).

**Needs:**

Would need a small team (3-4) of interested people to help organize and volunteers on the day.

## **The Edify Centre**

### ***To Teach. To Train. To Empower***

**With every workshop, information forum, counselling session, training session and speaking engagement we are building suicide safer communities. We are a Social Impact Company offering Mental Health Education, Suicide Awareness and Intervention training as well as our Physical Focus program to address Mental Health through Boxing. We offer fee for service counseling for youth, adults, families in-person and virtually.**

**Potential Workshop Topics from Edify Centre include:**

**Mental Health 101, Empowering Youth, Youth Engagement, Social Media Awareness, Internet Safety, Suicide Alertness, Youth Anxiety and more.**

*From website: <https://www.edifycentre.ca/>*

## **ScreenStrong's Core Values**

**ScreenStrong successfully helps parents around the world prevent and reverse their children's dependence on addictive screens. We help parents understand the science and identify solutions that address the problem at its core so they are empowered to delay smartphones and social media, and replace video games with healthy hobbies.**



**Build Healthy Families:** Family connections and values are stronger when parents' influence and leadership is greater than peers and screen culture.

**Eliminate Toxic Screens:** Technology can be a useful tool, but toxic screen use is harmful (video games, social media, pornography), is not mandatory for any age child, and cannot be balanced. Moderation is a myth because a moderate amount of toxic screens is still harmful to children.

**Develop Life Skills:** Learning life skills is more important than screen skills.

**Prioritize Authentic Relationships:** True communication and connections are developed in person—not on a screen.

**Dare to Be Different:** Saying no to the use of addictive and toxic screens through adolescence is the best prevention for screen dependency.

*From website: <https://screenstrong.org/about/>*