

Parent Council Meeting Minutes - Princess Margaret Public School – September 18, 2023

In attendance: Andrea Papavasiliou, Billie Jo Reid, Kelly Hutchinson, Emily Derose, Justine O'Brien, Ida Carr, Sabrina Ferreira, and Emily Mallett

Regrets: Tracy Parise, Cindy Schmidt, Rebecca Lindo, Melissa

1. **Principal's Report** (Andrea) ** Report copied at the end of the Minutes

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. UGDSB Anti-Racism Statement
3. Gender Identity & Gender Expression at the UGDSB
4. Multi-Year Plan at PMPS: Two-Week Sprints
5. General updates
6. Safety reminders
7. Milk & pizza sales
8. Important upcoming dates

2. **Role of Parent Council** (Emily M.)

1. Fundraising (This Council's long-term goal: outdoor learning space)
 2. Supporting school initiatives (e.g. from last year include Kindergarten pollinator garden, grad trip, engraving grad awards, Family Transition Place program, inclusivity presentation, and we cover Council admin costs such as printing, raffle baskets at events, etc.)
 3. Supporting school improvements (e.g. playground repairs and maintenance, new welcome signage, new branding in school gym)
 4. Engaging the parent community (parent engagement is at an all-time low)
 5. This year:
 1. Swag for students?
 2. ODSS bursary?
 3. Mental health presentation?
- While fundraising is a strong focus for us, it goes hand in hand with supporting the needs of the school. The admin role of Parent Council is just as important as our fundraising.

3. **Voting on meeting format**

1. We will move to the first Thursday of the month, in-person at the PMPS library, at 6:00pm
2. Emily M. will remain Co-Chair, Billie Jo will join as Co-chair, Ida will keep minutes in the role of Secretary
3. Looking for a Student Council representative to provide us with input – awaiting on Student Council elections

4. **Holiday Fair**

1. Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, December 2nd, from 0am-3pm
2. Started registering Vendors this week – all applications welcome
3. New Parent Council Instagram account **@princessmargaretps**
4. Volunteer description for Vendor Fair Co-Ordinator
 1. Emily D. - lead
 2. Sabrina and Justine – helping

3. Jessica will shadow her role from previous years
5. Volunteer description for kids' only shopping area
 1. Sabrina
6. Volunteer description for silent auction
 1. Billie Jo - lead
 2. Kelly and Ida - helping
7. Volunteers will need to complete the VSC (volunteer sector check)

5. Parent Involvement Committee

1. Wed. Oct. 25 meeting (Fergus) - *Inspiring Parent Engagement with Parents and School Councils*
2. Emily M. suggested that we develop a Parent Council bulletin board, for display at the front office window.
3. Emily M. will work on a Parent Council Constitution (set of by-laws), as directed by PIC and the Board

6. Holiday Fair planning

1. Silent auction:
 1. Donor list: Billie Jo will create a donor list and share the Google Doc to us so that we can start soliciting donations for the silent auction
 2. Class baskets: Let's continue having kids (grades) each develop their own themes for their baskets for the silent auction
 3. We need: baskets, stuffing, ribbon
 4. Administration: Billie Jo has the administrative forms (bidding sheets, who won, etc.)
2. Kids' only shopping:
 1. Let's be mindful of asking sparingly for donations of used stuff (books, toys, never-opened gifts, etc.)
 2. Let's reserve a small budget so that we can purchase some items
3. Vendor fair:
 1. Graphics were posted to Instagram and Facebook accounts this week

7. Food fundraisers - Pita Pit / Quest for Cakes / Little Caesar's

1. Other options (in addition to pizza): pitas, smoothies, cookies
2. However, this might be more appropriate for Student Council, as we'd need volunteers on site to hand out orders.
3. Let's ensure that we don't overlap with fundraising for grade 7/8 trip (check with Tracey)
4. Little Caesar's fundraiser should happen in the spring

8. New business

1. Student changerooms: changerooms have now been cleared out of supplies, but there is still some gym equipment. Changerooms are mostly ready.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 5, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., PMPS library
We are always welcoming new members!

Principal Report; September 18, 2023

Land Acknowledgement:

As a community, we have the responsibility to honour and respect the four directions: land, water, plants, animals, and ancestors. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous Peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation of the Anishinaabek (awe-nish-naw'-beck) Peoples on whose ancestral and treaty lands we teach, learn and live. I also acknowledge that these lands are covered by treaties 18 & 19.

UGDSB Anti Racism Statement:

Anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism is deeply rooted in our country, society, institutions and our history, and much work needs to be done to address this systemic racism. As an educational community we have a responsibility to identify and describe racism and oppression and then work to dismantle it. The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to disrupting systemic racism and oppression in all of its forms. We will implement ongoing mandatory anti-racism and anti-oppression training for all staff, review our protocols and policies, including our hiring practices, and be fully transparent and accountable to all Upper Grand students, staff, families, and stakeholders in an ongoing manner.

-Harmful language protocol review at September staff meeting: **Big idea: There is no reason to use slurs or derogatory terms. This includes, but is not limited to, repeating song lyrics, quoting an author or public figure, and displaying or projecting harmful terms as part of a lesson or otherwise.**

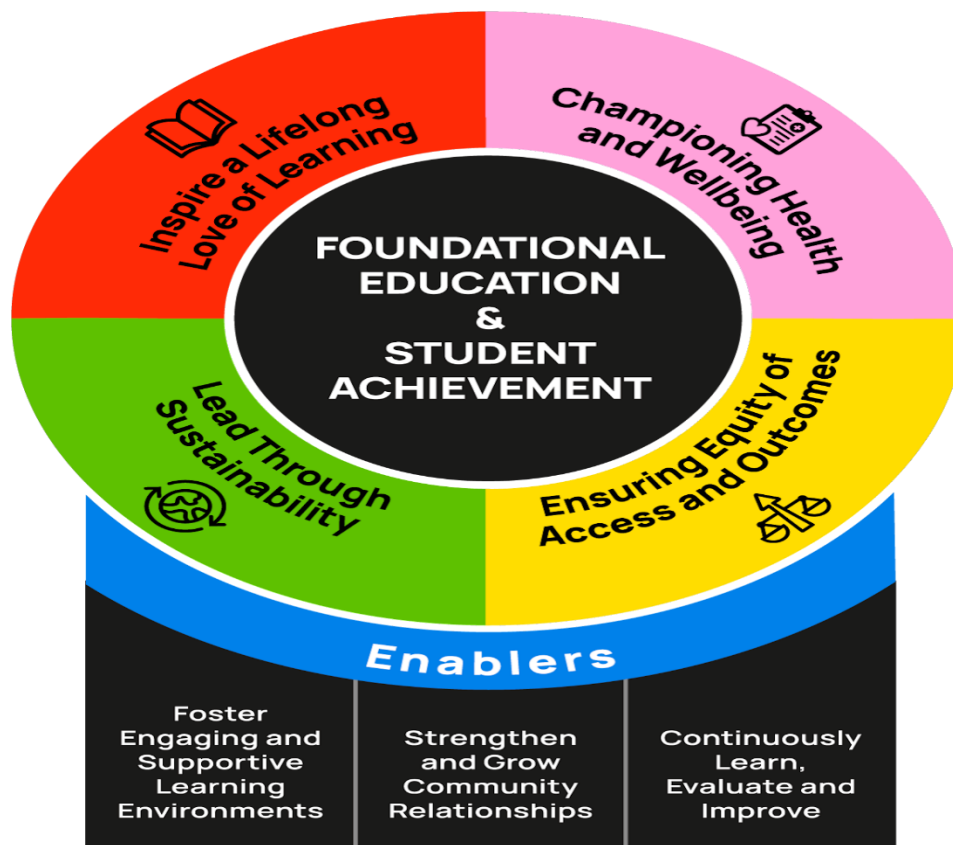
Gender Identity & Gender Expression at the UGDSB:

Continuation of Policy: We emphasize that our existing policy regarding Gender Identity and Gender Expression remains in full effect. We urge all staff members, including teachers, administration, and support staff, to persist in utilizing the chosen names and pronouns of both students and staff members. For further details, please refer to Policy 504 Equity and Inclusive Education.

- **Legal Perspective: It is important to note that there have been no legislative changes and there exists no legal requirement to disclose the chosen gender Identity (including pronouns) of a student to their parent(s), guardian(s) or caregiver(s), unless explicit consent has been provided by the student.**

- **Discrimination: a reminder that rejecting an individual's gender expression, gender identity and the use of a chosen pronoun, constitutes a form of discrimination and is a violation of human rights, as defined by the Ontario Human Rights Code.**

Multi Year Plan at PMPS: 2 Week Sprints



1. **Outcome:** Review the UGDSB Let's Go Multi Year Plan with all staff and review the goals that we drafted in June 2023.

Reflections: Do all staff have an understanding of the UGDSB Let's Go MYP and overall goals moving forward?

2. **Outcome:** Review the importance of collecting updated diagnostic data for literacy and math, so we continue to identify learning gaps and intervene to address those gaps.

Reflections: Do all staff have an understanding of why diagnostics are important to collect? Have we established a timeline to collect data and a plan to enter the data at staff meetings?

3. **Outcome:** Monitor student attendance and support families when there is a concern.

Reflections: Have we addressed attendance concerns by reaching out to parents/ caregivers? Do staff understand their role in monitoring and intervening about attendance? Have we connected parents and caregivers to the appropriate support staff and resources who consent to support?

General Updates:

Over the summer, we had a lot of work happen in our school. We have beautiful new flooring in our gym and all of our hallway floors on the first and second level were replaced. The building looks fantastic!

With help from the UGDSB, we were able to purchase 18 brand new instruments: 6 trumpets, 6 clarinets, and 6 flutes. We also had all of the older instruments cleaned and repaired. We are excited to announce that we are bringing back instrumental music from grade 6-8 this year for those who are interested. We also were able to purchase 30 recorders as well. This week we also started our student band and have had tremendous interest from our families. We will need to purchase even more instruments (this is a great problem to have).

If you missed it, our school was featured in board news this week for our community garden. Please check this link out: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/blog/pmps-students-donate-to-the-food-bank-during-1st-week-of-school/>

We are also excited to announce that all student's kindergarten to grade 5 will have art taught to them by our very talented art teacher. If you have been to our art shows, you know what I am talking about.

Sports teams started back up here at PMPS. Cross country running and soccer have started!

We will have completed all of our drills for the fall. I am proud to let you know that students and staff did a wonderful job following directions and exiting the building safely.

Safety Reminders (We're still having trouble with the following):

-When dropping off and picking up kids, please remember that dogs must be leashed and kept on the sidewalk of our property. This is the expectation for all dogs (no matter the size or age). Some students have allergies, a fear, and there is the potential that someone could be scratched or bitten.

-Please do not park in our front bus loop. Although we have limited bus students, we still have a couple of buses that carry students on them. For the last three days, one of the buses could not safely unload children with accessibility needs. If this continues, we will close our front parking lot and eventually move to ticketing.

Milk & Pizza Sales:

Good news, the board and the School Cash Online vender have fixed any problems in School CashOnline. If you were not able to see items for purchase before, you will be able to now.

This is just in time for donations for the Terry Fox Run and Pizza Day purchases . If you have trouble, Mrs. Mckenzie, our amazing office coordinator, will be able to assist you.

Yesterday, started our milk sales. Each milk (plain or chocolate) is \$1.00 and students require cash to purchase. This is a service for our school run by our wonderful student leaders- we make very little profit from sales, but any profit is used to support student learning purchases.

Important Upcoming Dates:

-Our Meet the Teacher evening is September 21st, 2022 5:30-7:00pm.

-Our annual Terry Fox Run will be held on Friday, September 22nd in the last learning block. Top fundraisers get to silly string their teacher and me!



Andrea V. Papavasiliou (PapaV) (she/her/hers)
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Principal
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