

Parent Council Meeting Minutes - Princess Margaret Public School – March 7th, 2024

In attendance: Andrea Papavasiliou, Billie Jo R., Emily M., Emily D., Rebecca L., Ida C., Sabrina F., Tracy P.

Regrets: Justine O., Raquel K., Kiri L., Kelly H., Tracey M.

1. Land Acknowledgement and Anti-Racism Statement

A new Land Acknowledgement was recently introduced, in consultation with UGDSB Indigenous students and from elders who advise our school board.

2. Guest speakers Michelle and Sherri from *Cry Not* – presentation re. Human Trafficking, Sex Trafficking, Awareness & Prevention

Learn more through several resources:

- crynot.ca
- Caledon Dufferin Victim Services (905) 951-3838
- Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline 1-833-900-1010
- Joy Smith Foundation
- safeonline.ca – this site has talking points by age for conversations with children
- mediasmarts.ca

3. Principal's Report (highlights below – full report follows Minutes):

- February hosted impactful learnings about Black Heritage, Black Brilliance, and Black Futures at our school;
- OPP presentations will be returning to the school on various topics suited to each grade, e.g. personal safety, online safety / boundaries, healthy relationships, sextortion. Letters will go home to parents, and these presentations have been vetted by the UGDSB;
- Trying to get a parent-only presentation regarding on-line safety;
- Visit from the superintendent and trustee was useful, received positive feedback about our school;
- Multi Year Plan continues with school improvements – goals from last month are highlighted in the Principal's full report, after the Minutes;
- ODSS has visited our grade 8 students for course selection;
- Grade 8 math transition support has started at our school, our grade 6 math facilitator continues to work alongside teachers with our students;
- Attendance support remains a great need at our school;
- Junior/Intermediate students continue to learn from our Family Transition Place presentations;
- Our curling team have won their first game! J/I basketball teams are up and running;
- Hoping to book a presentation with Michael Jacques, a young adult living with autism and an intellectual disability, wrote a book: Here's My Book. This would be for grades K-8 presentation about empathy and empowerment;
- Winter playday is Friday, March 8

4. General business:

- Thank you to all members and their families who participated in our school grounds clean-up last Sunday! Council will host another such event in the coming weeks;
- Little Caesar's fundraiser – Kick off will be Tuesday, March 19 until April 7; pizza kits delivery to the school will be on April 19;
- Art therapy workshops - grades 1-4 were already approved by Parent Council, and now programming has been approved for grades 5 – 8;
- Outdoor learning space – Parent Council has formed a sub-committee to start bringing our visions to life, we have received a wish list from the school for the Kindergarten yard (triple mix, stackable items like milk crates, outdoor chalkboards, new trees or cedar hedge) and for the courtyard (vertical non-permanent whiteboards, more long-term .plans). For the main outdoor learning space, sub-committee will begin with creating a plan for an outdoor table, easel, trees or hedging;
- Multi-cultural night – Feeler was sent out to families this morning, will wait for respondents from our school community to determine whether this moves forward;
- Student Council rep invited to Parent Council April meeting – we would like to better support the Student Council;
- Ideas for a 2nd spring fundraiser: BBQ on Arts and Family Fun Night (on June 6). Will ask Sobey's about booking BBQs, PIC funding could cover food costs.
- We continue to post to our social media channels, always hopeful for new members. We are enjoying a social night out as a Parent Council once a month, fosters team building.

Immediately following our meeting, some members stayed to watch the UGDSB Webinar: **The Biology of Stress** - Understanding the physiology around stress to better respond to stressful situations. Teach your children skills to recognize and manage their own stress.

Next Parent Council meeting date is Thursday, April 4th, at 6pm

Principal Report, Princess Margaret Public School: February & March 2024

Discussion: Base of New Land Acknowledgement recently introduced to principals and vice principals at a recent meeting. Introduced to teachers at a staff meeting as well. This has been reviewed with consultation from UGDSB Indigenous students and from elders who advise our school board.

Land Acknowledgement:

Princess Margaret Public School is situated on the ancestral, treaty and title lands of the Anishinaabek Ojibwe Nation, specifically the Michi Saagig of the Credit land. This Nation holds legal and specific rights in their respective territories. This area has been and continues to be home for Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous peoples.

- What action(s) do you commit to, and will state with the land acknowledgement in your building?
- My commitments this evening: introduce the new base land acknowledgment to parents/ guardians and staff this evening. Commit to continue purchasing items that support Indigenous learning. This past month: Sweet Grass for Young Adults &

Winter's Gift to our library and for an Indigenous student after a suggestion from our Indigenous CYC.

Board's Equity 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.

As February ends, we are recognized Black Heritage, Black Brilliance, and Black Futures month here at our school. We learned about influential black role models on our daily announcements, during classroom activities (Out poetry, pizza box biographies, QR code bulletin boards, read alouds etc), and through school displays. We proudly flew the Pan African flag for the month of February to recognize this month. The work to recognize Black Brilliance continues all year long.

Principal's Report:

-We enjoyed a great visit with our superintendent Mrs. Heaslip and our Trustee, Ms. O'Hara-Stephson last week. They both noted all of the wonderful things that we have happening in our school some of which included: the community gardens, our grade 6-8 band, the beautiful artwork that is displayed all over our school, the outdoor learning in kindergarten and in grade 6, the Family Transition Place programming, the student nutrition program, student leadership, the quality of instruction, the friendly nature of our students, the student work on black brilliance, the GSA, ... the list goes on. A highlight on the tour was when our superintendent asked two intermediate students what the best thing about our school was, and the students without hesitation said, the staff and how much they support us. They followed by saying how awesome the kids are at PMPS and one of the students shared with the trustee and superintendent that this was only her second year at our school and felt welcomed and supported by peers the moment she arrived. It was a proud principal moment.

-We continue work on the Multi Year Plan (School Improvement): Some of our goals from the last month include:

-Provide additional time to work on the following from feedback from staff:

lesson planning for literacy, continue to look at resources from BrightSpace and how to incorporate into language instruction, and More time to look at language curriculum and how to evaluate using one mark for report card

-Send out updated attendance data to parents/ guardians with Ministry definition of persistently late and with attendance out of how many possible school days, and 10, 20 and 30% data.

-Review best practices with staff for math and language, staff complete a reflection, and use this data to create goals for improvement, identify support and resources Grade team partners working together to select one rich numeracy problem from (Math Up or EQAO) to give to students. Future plan: collaboratively mark, answer reflection questions to learn more about next steps in instruction of problem solving needed

-ODSS has visited our grade 8s for course selection. All students have now selected their courses for grade 9. We held our grade IPRC meetings last week and are planning visits to the highschool.

-Grade 8 Math Transition Support, [Jason Findlayter](#) has started work at PMPS. He is here for one cycle of support (late January to the end of math), to help support students who are currently achieving a C in math and try to close the gap so they are meeting provincial standards. Our grade 6 math facilitator, [Harwant Dhaliwal](#) continues to work alongside our grade 6 teachers (whole year).

-OPP Presentations coming to PMPS: After a long absence from our school, I have invited the OPP back to provide some much needed programming for our students. K-2 presentations will happen later in the spring (the officer brings the cruiser for the kids to explore). Grade 3- 5 presentations are scheduled for March 27th and grades 6-8 presentations are scheduled for April 4th. Letters will go home after the March 7th School Council meeting. I have been talking with Officer Amy- Lynn Pitton and she is excited to get back into local schools. All programs have been reviewed by the UGDSB. I am also working on organizing a parent only presentation in the evening about online bullying and the role of the police. Stay tuned.

Class	Presentation	Date of Presentation
Kindergarten	Personal Safety	*spring
Grade One:	Personal Safety	*spring
Grade Two	Personal Safety	*spring
Grade Three:	Online Safety and Personal Boundaries	March 27th 9am
Grade Four:	Online Safety and Personal Boundaries	March 27th 1105am
Grade Five:	Online Safety- Healthy Relationships and Personal Boundaries	March 27th 115pm
Grade Six:	Online Safety- Healthy Relationships and Personal Boundaries	April 4th 9am
Grade Seven:	Online Safety	April 4th 1105am
Grade Eight:	Sextortion	April 4th 115pm

Parent Presentation	Online Safety (parents only)	TBD after speaking to School Council parents
----------------------------	------------------------------	--

Other exciting things happening around PMPS:

- Our junior and intermediate students continue to learn from the Family Transition Place presentations
- Students in kindergarten and intermediate (buddies) are snowshoeing while embracing winter weather
- Our curling team have won their first games. The bonspiel happens later in March.
- Junior and Intermediate basket ball teams are up and running. Our boys won their first game last week.
- Our junior/intermediates have completed their speech writing and presentations. Our speak offs happened and we have our winners representing us at the Lions Club. The Legion is not hosting a presentation this year.
- Our grade 6-8 band continues to use their instruments and are making great progress.
- 'Winter' playday March 8th: Thank you to Meg Christie for organizing. Our children will be outside playing a variety of games and completing physical activities for blocks one and two. Students are mixed into teams with older students leading. Teachers are at each station running the games.

Upcoming Spirit Days:

March 8th: Disney Day

March 22nd: World Water Day - Wear Blue

March 25th: In celebration of Holi: Wear bright colours for Holi (Hinduism)

March 28th: In celebration of Easter (March 31) - Wear pastel colours and complete an easter egg and bunny hunt.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- March 11th to 15th: Spring Break- No School
- March 27th: Grades 3-5 OPP Presentations (Letter will be coming home)
- March 28th: Grade 1-3 trip to Theatre Orangeville
- March 29th and April 1st: No School
- April 2nd-3rd: Chef a L'Ecole Grades 4-8
- April 4th: Grades 6-8 OPP Presentations (Letter will be coming home)
- April 8th: PD Day (am math PD for staff & , pm mental health training for staff)

