

School Council Meeting Minutes- Preston Public School

September 25, 2024

6:30 via Google Meet

In attendance: Lindsay Marynewich, Lindsay Warner, Marc Lehmann, Kaitlin Nicholls, Kim from Preston Heights Community Group, Jessica McGaw, Janet Lam, Leena Uppal, Corey Kimpson, Liz Hambleton (minutes)

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions - Marc

Preston Heights Community Group update - Kim

- Kim hopes that some of her team will attend our school council meetings on occasion to update us on local programs
- About the Bounce is a specialized basketball program for Grade 5 students
- Family Pumpkin Carving Night - Oct 25th
- Breakfast in the Neighbourhood is another community event that happens
- The best way to get information about the programs is through their newsletter (sign up!) or access their website <https://prestonheights.ca/>



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Teacher/Principal updates -Marc

- What's going on around Preston?:
 - Sept. 6 Welcome Back to School assembly (welcome to students, reminders of our character traits, introduction of teachers and safe adults)
 - Sept. 10 Preston Meet & Greet (great way to get together as a community and was very well attended by our families)
 - Sept. 25 Franco-Ontarian Day
 - PSL starts on Monday, Sept. 30 (PSL = Preston Soccer League)
- Staffing
 - New Superintendent Ms. Vida Collis. Came to support on first day of school and will make her first official site visit on November 8

- Marc's interim principal status...to be continued
- Ms. Son on leave; Ms. Barua was covering from the start of the year and Ms. Gingrich-Martin (Ms. G-M) has just started on Monday
- Ms. Ritlop is in until Mr. P-B completes his leave in mid-October
- Mr. Heikoop in Kindergarten (K3)
- Ms. Eastway is now Mrs. Westrop
- Mrs. Bird has returned as a contract ECE teacher
- Currently hiring for Ms. DiPietro in ACE while she is on leave
- First team meeting held today after school
- Multiple student teachers through the year, high school co-op student started Monday, and several Conestoga students began placements last week
- Academics
 - At the beginning of the year, our school focus is on community building and diagnostic assessments
- Facilities/Grounds
 - Our school tarmac is freshly painted with the playground games. Thank you School Council for the funds!
- Health & Safety
 - Staff have completed health and safety training as part of their back-to-school professional development
 - Fall fire Drills have been completed. The staff and students are doing great at getting out safely and quickly!
 - Lock Down Drill will be completed tomorrow

Budget/Fundraising/Allocation of School Council Funds -Marc/Lindsay

Bingo:	\$15,273.39	(includes stationary bikes and landscaping purchase/cost)
Pizza (821):	\$17,610.17	
Fundraising General (840-Chocolate Bar):	\$ 2,969.16	
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Total:	\$35,852.72	

*cost for the tarmac repainting still to be deducted

- Lindsay W. spoke of ways we could spend our money this year, including some additional funds for teachers for consumables, field trips, family events, school improvements, clubs, murals, composite photos for Grade 6 students leaving Preston, etc.
- We are in a somewhat of a unique position of needing/wanting to fund projects to benefit our students.
- Council voted to continue to fund field trips to the RARE charitable research reserve for all of our Grade 2 and Grade 5 students.
- Lindsay M. suggested using funds for planners, but this would be dependent on the school's needs and whether they are applicable.

Chocolate Bar Fundraiser -Lindsay/Sharon

- The forms should be returned by Wednesday, October 2nd
- World's Finest Chocolate instead of Laura Secord
- A case of chocolate will be \$100
- Chocolate bars are scheduled to go home October 7th
- The campaign will be staying open for about 2 and a half weeks
- Raffle for prizes

Chess Club Discussion -All

- Marc presented an opportunity for our school to work with Sue Edwards to create a chess program and club.
- It would be around \$3000 for nine classes to participate in the program and consequently run a chess club.
- School Council voted to support this idea with the funds.

2023-24 Yearbook update -Marc

- Coming in this month from Edge Imaging
- We should be getting the draft shortly and then will deliver yearbooks to all students

School Greening update -Marc/Lindsay

- Thank you to Jessica for doing the layout for the armour stones. They look great!
- The monarch waystation has shown a lot of growth and we are excited for the potential of the space. If anyone has milkweed seeds, you are welcome to plant them in the monarch waystation.
- School Council volunteers did a school cleanup before going back to school to weed and trim the yard.
- Another yard clean up date will be scheduled once more leaves fall. Come and volunteer!

Family Night Discussion -All

- Tuesday, November 12th is booked for a Family Night (flexible on date)
- Ideas for how we can spend the evening include Crafty Creatures - 6 different activities, such as Perler beads, that will cater to a broad range of ages (rough cost is just over \$2000 for 150 students). We will need parent volunteers to help run the activities. Lindsay W will send out an email to gauge interest and volunteers.
- University of Waterloo STEM Night could be an option for the spring

Strong Start Update and Request for Volunteers -Marc

- We have a site coordinator for our Strong Start program - Mrs. Cross, thank you!
- We have some volunteers lined up to read with kids, but we need more volunteers. Get in touch with Marc by phone or email if you are interested!

2024-25 School Council Elections/Future Meeting Format Discussion -Marc

- Lindsay W has been doing a fantastic job of leading our School Council. She will continue to be our Chair for this school year. If anyone is interested in co-chairing with Lindsay, feel free to reach out and express your interest.
- The Secretary will be decided each month as the agenda goes out. We will try some AI tools to help out!
- It was decided that meetings will continue to be virtual and that the Google Meet link will be posted for anyone in our school community to join.

2024-25 Meeting Dates:

- October 23, 2024
- November 27, 2024
- January 22, 2025
- February 26, 2025
- March 26, 2025
- April 23, 2025
- May 28, 2025

Any other business?/Q & A

- Corey mentioned a couple upcoming events in Central Park. This Saturday the Preston lantern Festival is on in the evening 6:30 pm onward. It is a great event to come and enjoy some beautiful lanterns made by community members. Friday November 1 will be the Preston Pumpkin Walk. More to come on this later but we will be taking advantage of the PD Day and encouraging everyone to drop off their pumpkins and burn off some sugar.

Upcoming dates:

- Sept. 26: Fundraising chocolate bars arrive
- Sept. 27: Terry Fox School Run Day
- Sept. 30: Orange Shirt Day (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)
- Oct. 2: Booster Juice Deliveries begin today and continue every Wednesday
- Oct. 3: Pizza Days begin today and continue every Thursday
- Oct. 11: PD Day for School Learning and Improvement Planning
- Oct. 14: Thanksgiving Day (school closed)
- Oct. 18: Student photo day
- Oct. 21-25: "Socktober" sock collection initiative starts (donations will go to a local charity)
- Oct. 23: Silly Sock Day

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 6:30-8:00 PM