

School Council Meeting Minutes- Preston Public School

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

6:30-8:00 PM via Google Meet:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/koi-dpfw-qtd>

In attendance: Lindsay W, Lindsay M, Janet L, Kaitlin N, Rebecca F, Sharon R, Renee W, Jessica M, Marc L

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions -Marc

Preston Heights Community Group update -Kim

Kim wasn't in attendance at this meeting

Teacher/Principal updates -Marc

- What's going on around Preston?
 - Sept. 27: Terry Fox Assembly/Run
 - Sept. 30: Orange Shirt Day
 - Oct. 18: Student Photo Day
 - Oct. 21: Start of "Socktober"/Apple Crunch Day
 - Oct. 23: Silly Sock Day

- Staffing:
 - Mike Coates was in for Marc for a couple of days this week. He will be returning to fill in for Marc Nov. 4-8 and then again for the month of December
 - Ms. Son will be returning gradually on Nov. 1 and Ms. Gingrich-Martin (Ms. G-M) will be co-teaching ("job sharing") until mid-December
 - Mr. P-B has now returned from his leave and is back as our full-time music/dance/drama and MLL (multilingual learner) teacher
 - Ms. Savel is now on a leave and we were able to hire Ms. Ritlop as the new full-time teacher in portable 2 (gr. 2/3B)
 - We have another student teacher (Ms. Yokich) from Nipissing, who started her placement in grade 2 with Mrs. Vandongen. Ms. Yokich is a former Preston student

- Academics:
 - Lots of work in the area of literacy
 - We had an ERRT (early reading resource teacher), Ms. Chessell, working with our grade 1 & 2 teachers while they were screening students using the Acadience tool
 - Our last PD Day had a K-6 literacy focus as well

- Amanda Cross is our Strong Start coordinator and assisted in the recruitment and training of several volunteers
 - Weekly ISST (in-school support team) and monthly MDST (multidisciplinary support team) meetings to address student/family needs
 - Our ISST is composed of Mrs. Heymans (special educations resource teacher), Marc (principal) and Mrs. Stevens (Kindergarten and former special education resource teacher)
 - The MDST includes a psychologist, social worker, principal, special education resource teacher, speech and language pathologist and special education liaison for the Board
- Facilities/Grounds:
 - Thanks to School Council for power washing and painting portable 2. P2 had some graffiti and graffiti cover that was not looking nice and we appreciate the initiative taken by some of our members of School Council
 - We now have our own line striper which has been used several times to paint our soccer boundaries
- Health & Safety: No updates at this time
- Miscellaneous:
 - Chess club will be starting on Nov. 20. Thanks to School Council for supporting this 8-week program serving nine of our classes. (9 classes will be joining and there will be a club for nutrition break)
 - Yearbooks will be delivered to all students at the end of this week. Staff were consulted and assisted with the final iteration. Many thanks to parent Nicole Fitzpatrick
 - Halloween...similar message will go out on School Day as in past years (Children can attend school wearing costumes if they want but there won't be Halloween focused activities through the day). "Orange and Black day". Regular learning day-no masks, no props, need to be able to participate in regular school activities

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| Budget -Marc | |
| Bingo: | \$15,552.59 |
| Pizza (821): | \$19,105.17 |
| Fundraising General (840-Chocolate Bar): | \$ 2,731.31 |
| | ===== |
| Total: | \$37,389.07 |

Chocolate Bar Fundraiser Update -Sharon/Lindsay/Marc

Today (Oct 23) was last day of fundraiser

Possibility of having Laura Secord brand again next year if that's an option

Action: At next meeting, debrief/discuss feedback about fundraiser once we have the final numbers etc.

Family Night Update -Lindsay/Marc

RSVP has been sent out for the event-deadline is Friday. This will give us an idea of how many families will be participating

We should have enough volunteers for the evening

No further updates at this time

Book Fair Discussion -Lindsay

We haven't had a book fair for quite some time

Could be a fun experience for the students

Would need approx. 4-5 volunteers

Lindsay is offering to spearhead it

Possible timeline-before Easter

Action: Lindsay will get info from Scholastic and send email to school council

PRO Grant Discussion -Lindsay

Grant through Ministry of Education

There's no \$ limit anymore

Point and goal of grant is for schools to engage parents in their child's education

In years past, we used it to fund Family Art Night, Stem night, Art project, book giveaway etc.

Need to start thinking about what we would like to do

Could do another STEM night with U of Waterloo (around \$1800)

Application is due in January

Action: Lindsay can send email with info and we can decide from there

Any Other Business?/Q & A

Marc: Proposed the possibility for school council to fund the cost of 2 additional Stationary Bikes (approx cost \$2100). Marc explained that the bikes are being put to good use as students are able to use them for body breaks and helps offer the students another option for being active.

Currently, there are two bikes but it would be helpful to have 2 additional bikes so that more students can use them.

Council voted to support the cost of two additional bikes. Approx. \$2100

Upcoming Dates:

-Oct. 25: End of "Socktober"

-Nov. 1: PD Day (School Learning and Improvement Planning)

-Nov. 18: Progress Reports go home today

-Nov. 20: First Wednesday of Chess Club; Family Art Night

-Nov. 21: Student photo retake day

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 6:30-8:00 PM