

## **School Council Meeting Minutes- Preston Public School**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2025**

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

**In attendance:** Lindsay Warner, Marc Lehmann, Reem Aljadba, Sharon Roberts, Lindsay Marynewich, Jessica McGaw, Kim (from Preston Heights Community Group), Janet Lam

### **Agenda:**

#### **Welcome and Introductions -Marc**

- Wishing everyone a Happy New Year

#### **Preston Heights Community Group update -Kim (program coordinator)**

- Started winter programs this month
- Started creation club (a STEAM-based club)
- Feb. 21: Family Game Night 5-6:30 PM. Free of charge
- 3 activity days during March Break
- March 10: Youth basketball tournament at Conestoga College for grade 10-12 students
- March 11: Gardening workshop run by a placement student from 11-12 for grades 1-8
- March 12: Innovation station from 11-1 for grade 3-8. Hamilton Mad Science will be leading the activity
- Kim will be sending more information to the school for distribution to our community

#### **Teacher/Principal updates -Marc**

##### **Staffing:**

- Marc is now back and set up until the end of March 2025 (for now)
- Mrs. Jeewa has left the school for a full-time contract position elsewhere in the WRDSB. We were able to hire Mrs. Gingrich-Martin into the grade 1/2 and Junior French position -someone who is already familiar with our students
- Ms. Son is back full-time
- Our former Director Jeewan Chanika is no longer with the WRDSB and Mr. Scott Miller has been appointed the interim Director. The Board is currently seeking a replacement for Mr. Chanika

##### **Academics:**

- Teachers have been working on assessment, evaluation and reporting, with report cards and Kindergarten Communication of Learning going home on February 10

##### **Facilities/Grounds:**

- No updates

##### **Health & Safety:**

- No updates

Miscellaneous:

- Chess Rocks! Program concluded today and was an enormous success. Considerations for next year?
- Students are starting clubs again with the support of teacher sponsors. Currently, there is an art club, a Blooket club and a board game club. All of these are taking place during the outdoor portion of break
- The *Jays Care* program will be running this spring and we have had Mrs. Woosnam-Battler and Ms. Smith trained. Marc will be attending a future training session as well. More details will follow at an upcoming Council meeting

**School Council Financials -Marc**

\* A meeting was requested by WRDSB Finance to explore any external bank accounts across the Board. At Preston, this meeting was held on Monday and the message was that ours (the OLG/Bingo account) would be consolidated with all other accounts beginning in September 2025. This is to increase accountability and to ensure that the school is not exposed to any fiscal vulnerabilities. While it will still appear separately, it will be accessible in our Finance portal called K212.

Bingo:	\$ 6,341.26
Pizza (821):	\$19,886.21
Fundraising General (840-Chocolate Bar):	\$ 5,878.93
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Total:	\$32,106.40

**STEM Night update -Lindsay**

- Very simple as it does not require any volunteers. U of W will run everything
- School Council will have snacks available

**\*\*PRO Grant -Lindsay (this item was not on the original agenda)**

- Plan is to use grant money for Family Literacy Night, if the proposal is approved

**Book Fair/Literacy Night Update -Lindsay**

- \$450 -cost of the author
- Consideration for asking for additional moneys from the PRO Grant to cover some miscellaneous activity costs
- Two teachers have offered to host two separate literacy activities
- Marc will put another request out in Friday's staff Weekly
- Liz Hambleton is offering a bookmark making activity
- Book Fair will also be open
- Consideration for a \$500 PRO Grant with feedback sought from attendees of the meeting. All agreed that this was a fair amount
- Jessica will be assisting Lindsay W. with the Book Fair. Both Lindsay and Jessica attended a Scholastics webinar today
- \$60 dollar cost for the purchase of 15 books or \$100 for a set of English and French books. Decision was made to purchase the bilingual selection
- Additional volunteers should reach out to Lindsay W. or Jessica

### **BIEP (Board Improvement and Equity Plan) -Marc**

Each district school board is expected to develop a Student Achievement Plan to support the implementation and achievement of the strategic plan. The WRDSB has incorporated the Student Achievement Plan requirements within the BIEP. Guided by the strategic directions of the [WRDSB Strategic Plan](#) and priorities identified by the Ministry of Education, we developed our [2024-25 Board Improvement and Equity Plan \(BIEP\)](#).

### **About the Board Improvement and Equity Plan**

The WRDSB BIEP has performance indicators in four key areas:

- [Achievement](#)
- [Pathways and transitions](#)
- [Sovereignty, human rights and equity](#)
- [Mental health, well-being and engagement](#)

We know the many ways WRDSB staff support student success and well-being go beyond what is captured in the BIEP, including:

- Helping support students to meet their academic goals;
- Fostering safe and inclusive learning and work environments;
- Preparing students for future pathways.

### **School Spiritwear Update and Discussion -Marc**

At the November School Council meeting, it was briefly discussed that the Preston spiritwear web store would open up right after March Break (March 17). Is everyone still okay with this?  
School Council

### **Any Other Business?/Q & A**

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

- Feb. 3: First day of Term 2
- Feb. 5: Family STEM Night 5:30-7:30 PM
- Feb. 10: Term 1 reports go home
- Feb. 13: Paul Davis internet safety/social media presentation
- Feb. 17: Family Day -school closed
- Feb. 25: School bus safety presentation

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 6:30-8:00 PM