

May 24, 2023 School Council Minutes

Attendees: Lindsay Warner, Jackie Fountain, Rebecca Fitt-Ajewole, Liz Hambleton, Marc Lehmann, Lindsay Marynewich, Janet Lam and Sharon Roberts

- Principal Updates:

- This is our last meeting of the year

- Marc expressed his gratitude to School Council, in particular to chair Lindsay Warner for their advocacy, efforts and support of the Preston community.

- Thanks also to the gardening group. The front entrance looks fabulous!

- Staffing: Same number of classes as this year with one less Kindergarten class. Final projected numbers will go in on May 30th which may result in some further changes. This afternoon, the staff created a first draft of classes for 2023-24 during our team meeting.

- We have been given 7 additional secretarial hours which will be posted soon.

- Admin decisions have not been made at this time. Marc has given his availability, if needed to start the year.

- Core French instruction will continue to be taught in grade 1 next year but for a total of 8 periods as opposed to the current 4 or 5. Parents of grade 1 students will then have the choice of opting in to the French Immersion program, which will now begin in grade 2.

- Health & Safety: Our students did an exceptional job during our first two spring fire drills. They were all accounted for in 4 minutes during the first drill and approximately 3 minutes in the second drill. One more fire/bomb drill, a lockdown drill and a tornado drill to complete our series of emergency drills.

- EQAO: Grade 6s and grade 3s are currently in the testing window. All testing, as last year, is done electronically.

- Grade 6 visit to William G. Davis took place yesterday. The students went on a guided tour of the school led by current students while Preston staff assisted with class placements for next year.

- Track & field season is in full swing. Students will be practising their disciplines prior to our school event at Preston High School on June 1 (rain date is on the 5th). Our regional event will take place at Jacob Hespeler High School on June 12.

- Grade 6 students are involved in a popcorn/freezie fundraiser through the end of the school year. They have a celebration year-end trip booked for Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre.

-June 2nd is a PD day designated for assessment, evaluation and reporting for term 2; Wednesday, June 28 is the last day of school for students.

- Budget/Fundraising

-Our current total is \$46,075.86, including payment for Art Night. This amount combines Bingo, Pizza & Fundraising General.

-student locks for those entering senior elementary school: \$9.45 each/total \$302.40.

-composite photos for departing grade 6s: \$33.90 each/total \$1,152.60.

-Lifetouch yearbook cost: \$3933.00.

Marc confirmed that all these were being covered through School Council funds.

- Playground updates

-We are the next school slated to have a Gaga Ball pit installed by Fred's Fences

-hopefully this weekend!

- Grounds/Facilities update

-New basketball backboards are being installed on Tuesday afternoon. The same company has also been tasked to provide a quote for the outdoor gooseneck basketball system installation

-Meeting took place with Henderson Playgrounds with Marc and Lindsay and a quote was provided for the age 2-12 playground structure. Costs are much higher than anticipated and Marc is working with the WRDSB to see if costs can be shared.

-There is still no final word on the tarmac resurfacing for the summer. The parking lot has been confirmed but we are waiting to hear about the rest of the blacktop.

- Principal Profile Form for School Councils (Lindsay Wagner). Document is due back to the board by Friday, May 26, 2023.

-Discussion held about what all individuals value about the school: events, kindness, family, community

-What makes Preston unique?: small size, approachability of parents and staff

-Special needs?: equity was mentioned, as we are in a mixed income area

-2 important characteristics of any incoming administrator: open lines of communication, collaborative, forward thinking and open to new ideas, fun and engaging

*The above will be included in the report submitted by Lindsay Warner

Discussion items:

- Art Night feedback -very positive. Members appreciate all events and there were some discussions about timing of events to keep in mind bedtimes
- Pizza days for next year will continue, although we are going to look at dairy-free options as well
- Chocolate bar fundraiser will take place again next year. Sharon Roberts has offered to take the lead. October/Thanksgiving will be our target timeframe
- School Council goals for next year will include one other fundraiser in the spring (probably a plant fundraiser) and the inclusion of more events like Family Art Night and STEM Night
- Meet the Community event will take place on Tuesday, September 12 from 5-8 with food trucks. School will be open from 6-7 for teacher and class visits. Some food trucks have already been pre-booked and others being considered
- Meeting dates for 2023-24: Wednesdays Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, March 27, April 24, May 22
- Any other business. Marc was asked whether we had a date for the William G. Davis open house. Confirmation was obtained that it will take place on Tuesday, May 30th from 5:30-6:30 pm. Once Corrie (our head secretary) received the information from William G. Davis, a message will be shared on School Day