

School Council Meeting - Preston Public School

October 25, 2023

6:30 via Google Meet:

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/dyp-fwmf-qmi>

Attendees: Marc Lehmann, Lindsay Warner, Leena Birtch, Lindsay Marynewich, Rebecca Fit-Ajewole, Liz Hambleton, Sarah Son (teacher update)

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions - Marc

Teacher/Principal Updates - Marc and Sarah

- Marc informed the staff about the charitable reserves school trip, \$100 consumables, etc. Staff are appreciative!
- Grade 6 will be going to the Waterloo Region Waste Management Site.
- EQAO results have become public. Anyone can access results online, including boardwide results as well as school results. Individual Student Reports were sent home to all Grade 3 and 6 (last year) students. Overall, staff are pleasantly surprised with the results. Our students did well!
- Marc found some WEFI money and purchased some new PE equipment, including pickleball sets, balance equipment, baseball gloves, dodgeballs, beachballs, etc. Older equipment was dispersed to classrooms for extra recess play equipment.
- STEM Club being run by Mrs Klassen. They are exploring different gadgets, including a drone. Art Club and Soccer Club are running as well.
- An outdoor education specialist from the school board approached Mark to construct a monarch waystation. A monarch waystation is a special garden to attract monarch butterflies. The area is staked out to be tilled but not completed yet. It will be marked by signage. As per Lindsay's email, if anyone wants to take the current plants and replant them elsewhere, do so soon!
- The Grade 6 students planted some tulip bulbs for spring.
- Mad Science programme generated some interest and will run. It was not able to start today but will begin next Wednesday, November 1st for 35 students that will use two classrooms.
- Students are welcome to dress in their Halloween costumes on October 31st, but please no gore, violent accessories, masks, etc. As a school, we will celebrate with a Black and Orange Day.
- Fitness Equipment is being added to the back of the property. The process is taking longer than expected. We are waiting for board approval to finance the excavation and surfacing of the 3 small areas.

- The areas that we were hoping to have repaved have not been approved due to budgetary restraints. The hope for a new basketball hoop has been put on hold. We have no timeline. Instead, we will put up an old backboard that we currently have at the school so that children have access to a hoop.
- One of the classes from last year was accidentally excluded from our yearbook. We are ready with a solution: an extra page will be printed and distributed.
- One of the kindergarten classes was also out planting bulbs this past week. Love keeping students included in our school landscaping.
- Grade 6 bus patrollers are now helping out with bus duty. They are being super helpful and showing great leadership. They even went to training!
- The Big Crunch assembly was a lot of fun and it was great to see the school community together!

Budget/Fundraising - Marc

We have 3 accounts that represent School Council Funding.

- BINGO - \$14,000 (yearbook money was just paid out)
- General Fundraising - \$6700.65
- Pizza \$21,760.92
- Total: \$42,461.57

We are in a good position to spend some money.

Chocolate Bar Fundraiser Update -Sharon

- Seems like it was a great fundraiser. Thanks to Sharon for managing the amount of bars that came in! Prizes from the chocolate bar company to be for a random draw to encourage and reward students. We are estimating we will make approximately \$6,000.

PRO Grant Discussion -Lindsay

- PRO Grant is a \$500 grant for School Councils. We filled out an application and expect to receive it again this year. This grant is intended to involve parents/families in school life. <https://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/get-involved/parents-reaching-out-pro-grants/>
- How do we want to spend our \$500? Previous ways we spent the grant: Art Night, each student got a book, tiles for mural. New ideas: Book Fair and we can fund a book for each student, another Art Night but with Crock-a-Doodle to create a small ornament or cup, possibly doing a tile with Crock-a-Doodle and creating a new mosaic.
- If the \$500 won't cover the whole cost of the event, we can pitch in the rest.
- No decision made tonight - we will discuss again next month and decide so that we can apply for the grant.

Support for Student-initiated Projects -Lindsay

- Let's fund some student-initiated projects! When students have an idea or need, we can give them funding to start up their idea. With teacher support, they will fill out a short

- application form to request funding from School Council.
- Liz to create simple application forms for student use.

MusiCounts Grant Application -Lindsay

- MusiCounts Grant can allow us to get up to \$20,000 in grant money. Mr P-B is going through the paperwork and we are looking to get some Orff instruments. They would be a great addition to our music equipment.
- Lindsay will update us once we hear back.

Science Night Update -Lindsay

- November 7th is our Science Night. School Council will provide snacks. Lindsay will purchase chips and juice boxes.
- Lindsay and Liz will be there early to ensure that the classrooms are set up.

Any other business?

- None

Upcoming dates:

-Oct. 30: Dental Screening

-Oct. 31: Orange and Black Day

-Nov. 7: Family Science Night

-Nov. 11: Remembrance Day (school assembly will be on Nov. 10)

-Nov. 20: Progress Reports go home

Next meeting - Wednesday, November 22, 6:30-8:00 PM