

Prince Charles School Council Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2021

Present: Ashley Policelli, Shari Elms, Andrea Stephenson (Guest Speaker, parent), Abby Marling, John Bartlett, James Sewell, Jess Carlton, Christine Meehan, Jason Eygenraam, Anne Muccilli, Nicola Struthers, Bri Jolly,

Regrets: Catherine Graham, Emma Orbanic

Presentation from Smart Commute Centre York

Andrea Stephenson is a guest at our meeting this week from Smart Commute Centre York. Prince Charles is currently participating as a pilot in this initiative to encourage students to ride the school bus, bike, scooter or walk to school. Numbers were good in October, not as good in November, but the hope is that the numbers will improve. The town has been requested to provide options for parking outside of the immediate school zone for students who live 20 minutes or more away and can still participate by walking part of the way, feedback is welcome on ways to improve the program. Would like feedback on proposed events to help promote this initiative. Looking to see if we can establish a date for the Mayor's participation in our program.

Land Acknowledgement

Land Acknowledgement read by Jason Eygenraam

Nicola accepted the minutes from the previous meeting, Anne seconded

Principal's Message

Makerspace update – new items have been ordered, and is now being accessed by the 6/7 and 7/8 classes during the lunch time with Mr. Schnalzer. Library is now open and several classes have been accessing the library and taking out books. A family made a substantial donation to the Learning Commons, and the funds have been put towards an E-Bot.

Student Council – the voices of the students are a very important component of our community, and it has been given a green light to move ahead. Currently the grades 6-8 classes have been reached out to for feedback for what we are happy about and what needs improvement. A part of this was a question to who wanted to be a part of student council, and nearly half of the responses were positive to participating in council. Instead of being a popularity contest for election, we are looking at the student of who will speak to the needs of the students, including those who are younger than them. This will not only be a staff selection, but will take into consideration a number of factors. Currently looking into Spirit Days that are inclusive and not focused on the big/well known holidays. Information will be sent out through both Edsby and as an e-mail blast.

Kindness Initiative

Since COVID has changed the landscape of the classroom, the staff has noticed that the kids may not have the same approach to issues/manners that they may have pre-COVID. We need to promote ways to how to show kindness to others. Daily announcement to reinforce positivity, starting the 12 days of Kindness, giant kindness BINGO board, Kindness Tree – highlighting kindness shown by students,

Screening Kits

Screening kits will be sent home for all students that are provided by the board. This will be up to the parents if they are used, and will be sent home prior to the Christmas Break. Once the kits are in the school, Shari will send a note to advise when the kits will be sent home. This is a rapid test kit, and the recommendation is that the children are tested every 3-4 days to help support families during the holidays. Results are not required to be sent to the school, but if

FI Teacher Shortage

Jason & Shari are working really hard to address questions from the staff and dealing with a shortage of teachers. One of the FI classes has been down a permanent homeroom teacher for 7 weeks, even though interviews have been actively ongoing. There is a current shortage of teachers across the province, so HR is an issue.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Feedback from staff and parents were that it was great to connect via a virtual meeting and make the connection with the teacher even though we can't meet in person to reinforce the constant communication.

Teacher Update

No updates to add, except Ashely was able to visit the learning commons with her class for the first time, and it was a great experience.

Treasurer Report

No new activity financially \$12,316.82 in the account. \$10,500 in holdback, (mud kitchen, playground enhancement, and virtual field trip). A few teachers have expressed interest in the virtual field trip, but not bookings yet. Funds from the fundraising have not been posted into the account yet.

Fund Raising

Fund raising is going well. Since November we have raised \$400, and a new newsletter and Edsby post will have a reminder to use the gift card program for gifts. There are great incentives right now. We have raised \$1,170 to date and with the donation of the family in the community we are half way to our total. Some challenges were raised about ordering multiple cards or over a certain value due to security. Recommendation is to order up to 4 cards per order to come through regular post or a big order through

expresspost that will require a signature. Motion from Nicola and seconded by Christine to release funds that has been raised through FundScrip (approx. \$1,300) to purchase the b bots in the New Year.

Parent Reaching Out Grant

This is a grant through the Provincial Government to the Boards which is filtered down to the schools/councils. In the past few years we have collaborated with a Newmarket Parent Council to pool the funds for events. Based on the past attendance, we would like to try this on our own. We are looking at an event that deals with social networking / safety / security. With the grant, we would get \$800, and then his cost would be approximately \$900, and we would fund the balance through council. What Shari looks for with this type of event is something that the students benefit from, and then provides the parents with information/navigation to stay on par or ahead of the students since they are so tech savvy.

Makerspace Visit / Virtual Visit Night

Potential for a parent visit night to review the MakerSpace either virtually or in person depending on protocols in place at the time.

New Business

YRDSB has a Parent Education Advisory Committee PEAC that has been trying to develop ways to engage newcomers to a school to create an Ambassador program to engage new families to schools. Abby can send the link for the newsletter so we can have a look. Jason mentioned that there are previous surveys that have been conducted by the school board that is available to review. Goal is to find a way to make new families feel welcome to our community.

Forest of Reading Program – a program provided through Ontario Library Association for new authors, and readers vote on authors in categories to determine a winner. Based on Jason’s experience with this program, the grades 4 – 8 students really get the most from this program. Until the list of books is received, it’s difficult to determine the cost of ordering the books, etc. To join the Forest of Reading, enrollment is \$65, but depending on the school budget it may be difficult to obtain the books. Based on previous experience expect a few hundred dollars to purchase all the books. Once registered, participants are eligible for a discount, but until you join, the discount is not known. Nicola has approved and Christine seconded the motion.

Food Drive – Abby recommended that we do a Food Drive for a couple of days next week. Maybe put a couple of boxes outside of the school for drop off – either by parents or children coming off the bus. This initiative will tie into the 12 days of kindness.

Clothing Drive

School will accept gently used clothing to keep on hand (coats, boots, snow pants, etc...) to keep on hand in the school. Any items that are donated are washed by Shari or Wendy, labelled for Price Charles and kept in a special area sorted by size

Path from Muriel to Lower Playground

Shari is working with Plant Services to actively have that path cleared during the snowy and icy path

Motion to adjourn approved by Nicola and seconded by Christine

Meeting Adjourned 8:31pm