School Council Meeting Minutes – March 5th, 2026
Princess Margaret Public School

In attendance: Andrea P., Emily M., Tracy P., Justine O., Brittani S., Lindsay F., Ida C., Sabrina F., Becky L., Sarah C., Meghann C., Amber J., Teagan K., Jen L.

Regrets: Billie Jo R., Sandra C., Tanya P., Ashley H., Vienna R.

1. Land Acknowledgement, Human Rights statements, introduction to our guest speaker. Principal's Report follows Meeting Minutes.

2. Guest speaker: Andrew Haley - Paralympic Gold Medalist, Hall of Fame swimmer, motivational speaker, and two-time cancer survivor!

General Council Business:

- *Make it Sew* seeds fundraiser (March 25 - April 17), Emily will prep intro letter & socials. Brittani and Emily will sort seeds when they come in. Teagan will help Emily with distribution on pick-up day (date TBD).
- Family Fun Night – date confirmed for Tuesday, June 2. Help needed for art show setup in the library with Kim Ellis on May 29 and June 1.
- Family Transition Place presentation for parents – Spencer might be interested in co-hosting with us. They will vote next week at their meeting and let us know.
- Parent Involvement Committee event in Fergus (April 16). Need to register in advance!
- Holiday Craft Fair signage – vote approved to spend $1,000 on new signage. We did debate whether signage was worth this cost but ultimately feel it is worthwhile.
- Discussed idea of donut fundraiser. Turned down Krispy Kreme (US based, have to pick-up in Mississauga, only one flavour choice) and instead decided upon Lady Glaze Doughnuts. Emily to speak to Trish with Quest for Cakes first, then gather more info. We will potentially run this one in May.

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 9th, at which we will discuss Family Fun Night planning. Representatives from Student Council have been invited to attend. Please bring your calendars as we will be confirming volunteers for the art show set-up and FFN itself.

Principal's Report: PMPS School Council - Thursday, March 5th, 2026

Land Acknowledgement:

Princess Margaret Public School is situated on the ancestral, treaty and title lands of the Anishinaabek Ojibwe Nation, specifically the Michi Saagig of the Credit land. This Nation holds legal and specific rights in their respective territories. This area has been and continues to be home for Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous peoples.

The Upper Grand District School Board's Indigenous Education Team is excited to share with you that Melanie Cormier Squire, Melanie Cormier, Anisinew Anishinaabe Kwe (Oji-Cree woman) from Michikan Lake First Nation (Treaty No. 9) and a proud member of the Mahiigan (Wolf) Clan, will be engaging students at your child's school for an in-person presentation on March 12th, 2026 (Flear/Bradford, Legros/Taylor, Pozinak, Christie, and Hickey).

For younger students, Melanie will discuss her experiences growing up in the north while engaging students in singing, drumming and storytelling. For older students, Melanie will also discuss her experience as an intergenerational Residential School Survivor, her work in Indigenous education as well as truth and reconciliation. Presentations will vary based on the grade. Through this interactive session, curriculum expectations from the Social Studies, Arts and the Language curriculum will be addressed.

The UGDSB is excited to share with you that Alyssa-Delbaere Sawchuk (member of the Manitoba Métis Federation) will be engaging students in grade 7 history classes in a virtual presentation on March 26th about the culture and history of the Métis with a focus on who their emergence as a Nation.

This interactive presentation will share information on the history of the Métis from 1713-1850, including the roles and responsibilities of men and women in the fur trade. Alyssa is also a talented fiddler and Métis music and storytelling will be woven throughout. Alyssa's presentation has many connections to the grade seven history curriculum.

A Commitment to Humans Rights In Action:

As a school community, we have a responsibility to recognize, call out, and break down racism and oppression in all forms. The Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) is committed to removing systemic barriers that continue to impact students, staff, and families. This is not just a short-term project - it's an ongoing commitment to making sure every student has a learning environment that is fair, just, and inclusive.

You will recall that the Board initiated a voluntary Human Rights Review. The report from this review will be released over the next week. It is important to acknowledge that some of the experiences and perspectives shared in the report may be difficult to hear. These stories reflect the real lived experiences of our students, staff, families, and community members who participated. The Board invited as many voices as possible, and it is essential that we approach this report with openness, care, and a genuine commitment to listening and learning.

As you read the report, please remember the Board requested this review to support proactive and meaningful work in this area. We believe people's experiences. We do not debate or minimize what families, students, and staff have shared.

Our guiding principles include:

- **Accountability before celebration** – We focus first on what needs to change, not on defending past efforts.
- **Action over statements** – Our credibility will come from what we do next, how clearly we communicate it, and our commitment to transparency.

- **Sustained effort** – This work takes time, intention, and ongoing commitment. Progress is continuous, not immediate.

The Board accepts the results of the review. This means we fully acknowledge the experiences shared by students, staff, families, and community members. We recognize that the report highlights both areas of progress and areas in need of improvement, and we take these findings very seriously while committing to meaningful action.
Some of this work is already underway. The recommendations include strengthening staff learning, improving reporting processes, and enhancing transparency across the system. This work will involve leadership, staff, students, and the broader community.
The report provides a clear path forward—and we are committed to following it with integrity, responsibility, and purpose.

Principal's Report:

In lieu of a principal's report, tonight, we are thrilled to welcome our guest speaker, Andrew Haley—an inspirational speaker, Hall of Fame swimmer, Paralympic Gold Medalist, and two-time cancer survivor. Andrew is known for his powerful message: *"Always trying to go after my own gold medal moment."* Throughout his life, he has transformed extraordinary adversity into extraordinary achievement. As a world and Paralympic champion, Andrew understands better than anyone what it means to perform under pressure, rise after setbacks, and pursue excellence with purpose. Today, Andrew works with leading global organizations—including Amazon, Salesforce, RBC, Airbnb, and HSBC—helping teams strengthen resilience, elevate performance, and unlock the mindset needed to move from intention to action. His talks go beyond inspiration; they challenge audiences to think bigger, act braver, and pursue their own gold medal moments in work, learning, and life. We're grateful to have Andrew with us this evening to share his lived experience, leadership insights, and truly transformational perspective on resilience, belonging, and peak performance. Please join me in welcoming Andrew Haley.

Reminders:

9th: Szabo Fire Presentation 935-1025am
10th: 115pm-215pm, Paralympian Andrew Healy Presentation (virtual)
10th: Pozinak & Ditchburn Fire Safety Presentation 935am-1025am
12th: Indigenous Speaker for kindergarten classes, Mrs. Pozinak's class, Mrs. Christie's class, and Mrs. Hickey's class (letter has been sent home with details)
13th: Dairy Farmer Presentation kindergartens 9am-940am and 940am-1020am
16th to 20th: March break
-25th: Superintendent Visit to PMPS, Mr. Viverios
-26th: Grade 7 Metis Virtual Presentations (Letter is coming home)
-April 1st: Elementary Skills Canada: Junior Robotics Club, chosen team.
-2nd: World Autism Day
-3rd: Custodian and Maintenance worker Appreciation Day! Thank you to our incredible custodian team: Sheila, Dino, Helena, and Marie for always taking care of us and our building.
-3rd-6th: Good Friday & Easter
-8th: International Day of Pink: Anti Bullying & Anti-Homophobia: Wear Pink!
-24th: PD day

Upcoming Spirit Days:
-Friday, March 13th: Wear gold and green and other accessories for St. Patrick's Day
-**Monday, March 23rd:** Crossing Guard Day! Make a thank you card to show your appreciation.
-**Friday, March 27th:** World Water Day, Wear blue in honour of water
-Thursday, April 2nd: Raise awareness and show support for neurodiversity! Wear red and blue.

Andrea V. Papavasiliou (PapaV)
(she/her/hers)
Principal, Princess Margaret Public School