

MINUTES
School Council
Bells Corners Public School

DATE: Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Attendance: Elysa Esposito (VP), Sadhana Lad (Principal), Marianne Tilton (Teacher representative), Erin Carter Green (Chair), Amy Crouter

Minutes taken by Marianne Tilton. Meeting called to order by Sadhana Lad at 6:30pm.

1. Introductions of those in attendance. Erin Carter Green acclaimed as Chair.

2. Principal's Report

The month of October continues to establish curriculum connections for all our students. Educators are engaging in developing students' literacy skills. Some students are working in focused reading groups that target decoding and comprehension skills.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) were sent out on October 26th. Progress reports will go home on November 4th. Parents need child's OEN number to access the parent portal to read progress reports. Interviews will be conducted on Nov 10 in the evening, and on Nov 12 in the morning. Educators will send invitations to parents and a phone call/google meet can be scheduled.

Student Voice is building throughout BCPS! Students are participating in announcements, capturing key dates in our student-developed Calendar and our Gratitude Tree and wall. Our monthly assembly continues to showcase accomplishments that students achieve: learning skills such as independent work, organization, self-regulation etc and character development.

This month students are exploring **Treaty Recognition Week** in their classrooms. Educators will be working on the meaning of a promise and how that is connected to treaties.

Honouring celebrations and traditions. Students are learning about celebrations to bring about awareness, respect and appreciation of all students in an inclusive environment here at BCPS.

We had our 2nd monthly assembly last Thursday, October 28th. We enjoyed hearing all the wonderful accomplishments from all our classrooms. We have started reviewing BCPS's core values with regards to who we want to be as staff and students. These values are: respect, caring, inclusiveness, integrity, responsibility, courage. For the next month, we are focusing on RESPECT. We are encouraging staff and students to review what it means to be respectful, and remind ourselves that we need to show ourselves respect if we want to seek it from others. We have been sharing classroom activities with staff through our weekly staff bulletin. We will continue to do the same for our weekly parent bulletin where we suggest activities and discussion questions families can do at home to continue the conversation.

Traffic at dismissal

We have been closely observing traffic in the parking lot at dismissal since the last council meeting. With the orange bus back up and running, traffic of cars and walkers has lightened up. We are noticing that families are being respectful of keeping this time to simply pick-up-and-go, keeping questions and conversations with staff and other families to a minimum. We want to thank families for being respectful of these expectations.

The Window Renewal Project is underway and we have gained another learning space in our library. Classes have adjusted to their new learning spaces. The building crew is working at a steady pace and we have our first block of windows set up.

Some Information for Council:

Online fundraising: Schools and School Councils have asked about the possibility of online fundraising. This is permitted and the following guidelines must be followed:

- As much as possible, encourage sales through School Cash Online
- Schools should not organize nor support any student door to door campaigns related to school fundraising efforts.

Fundraising ideas:

- Online auction using Auction 31 again
- Pizza night or other restaurant night where a portion of sales go to the school
- Pizza or Cookie kits

Kindergarten play yard?

- a. Amy asks what happened to the funds set aside? Sadhana confirms that the money raised by School Council is still in the School Council account earmarked for the yard.
- b. Are there other funds or grants that can be accessed? (There had been a grant fund that expired. Is there something new that can be applied for?)
- c. Can BCPS School Council partner with one from a more affluent school?
- d. Sadhana will contact facilities and ask questions about the process, restrictions, requirements, preferred vendors, etc.

School Council resources and tips:

https://ocdsb.ca/elementary/getting_involved/school_council/school_council_resource_guide

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.