

School Council
Bells Corners Public School

DATE: Tuesday, June 7th 2022

Location: Google Meet

Present: Sadhana Lad, Marianne Tilton, Elysa Esposito, Erin Carter Green, Sandra Pedersen, Amy Cameron, Troy Baker, Trish Charbonneau

1) Principal's Report - Sadhana Lad

Parent Council June 7th

May is definitely an exciting month where educators and administrators were witness to growth in the area of academics and student resilience and perseverance. It is a time where we consolidate the strategies and content that we have learned.

EQAO

Grade 3 & 6 students completed EQAO this month. Prior to the actual EQAO test date, students in grade 3 and 6 were able to participate in a practice test. The purpose of the practice test is to familiarize the students with the format, and what to expect when they are engaging with the actual test. Grade 3 students wrote 1 session a day for 4 days which were 1-1.5 hours length each. Grade 6s took 2 days and wrote in 2 sessions a day. Scribes were provided according to accommodations on Individual Education Plans. This is the first year we had an online assessment. Students and staff adjusted well to the change and we learned a lot going forward into future assessments.

School Power Outage

Bells Corners was closed due to the power outage and upon return last week May 30th, we heard from many students including families of their experience. Our team here at BCPS really focused on well being by reconnecting and listening to students. The transition back to school was positive and truly staff and students are happy to have power restored and continue to teach and learn.

Kindergarten Orientation/Intake meetings with families are currently being organized. Parents will be invited to a meeting with our ECE team and then a tour will be arranged of the classroom. (June 14th during the school day) The District no longer provides a staggered entry in September for our new kinders.

We had literacy coaches from the District come and work with our staff and students in mainly year 2 kindergarten and grade 2. Dibels is a tool that assesses student alphabetical awareness and atomicity which is a great stepping stone into reading. This tool will allow educators to zero in on a students' foundational knowledge and skills for a more effective targeted intervention moving forward.

Walk and Roll to School is an initiative that was inspired by OSTA and encourages students to walk to school. We took the challenge one step further by encouraging students to engage in physical activity at school during recess and at home with their families. All week, students had an opportunity to fill out a ballot for a chance to win a bike, a scooter, sand toys, soccer balls. We will be drawing a winner from kinder, primary, and junior divisions tomorrow morning.

Grade 6 Graduation

Grade 6 Graduation is taking place on June 24th at 10am. It will take place in our gym and grade 6 parents have been asked to rsvp. Our graduation ceremony will be a morning where students take time to listen to speeches from their teachers, Principal/Vice Principal and their student representatives. We want to celebrate student achievement and honor the personal goals and achievements that are very unique and individualized to each student.

This year, there will be a change in the way we honour our grade 6 graduates. We will be handing out certificates to all students. There will be two valedictorians that were chosen to represent the student voice and they were chosen by their teachers. In the past, we have handed out awards for achievement, core french, arts, sports and the list is endless. This year, we have chosen to remove the awards in these categories to focus on all our graduates as all of them have individually achieved in an area of the curriculum, and they have noted growth in character such as some of our bulldog values of courage, resilience and perseverance. We believe that *Children are likely to become enthusiastic, lifelong learners as a result of being provided with an engaging curriculum; a safe, caring community in which to discover and create; and a significant degree of choice about what (and how and why) they are learning.*(Alfie Cohen) We believe that our team has worked hard to provide these opportunities to students and this is why we have changed our approach with awards. Every student will be recognized on an annual plaque that will be displayed in the hallway at BCPS. We will also honour our graduating class with a grade 6 picture that will also be displayed in our hallway for years to come.

School Council will organize pizza and cake. Students will bring their own water bottles. We would also like to ask for coverage of the t-shirts and awards plaque. We are fundraising with our Friday Freezie sales starting June 17th. The total for the t-shirts are 491 and the total for the annual and plaque is _259.90_.

3) Approval of Minutes of the May Meeting

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yOXt9-liqFFsDGn6wOfKd6dc4VrWamVoow-AcqU4c8s/edit?usp=sharing>

Minutes were approved with no corrections.

4) Financial Report

- The bank balance is \$25 139.57
- The bulk of that money is owed to BCPS/the Board for the kindergarten yard improvements. (Including grant monies already granted). The board has not yet given the specific plan of what is included in the installation. The exact \$\$ amount to be forwarded to the board is not finalized. Sadhana will share the plans. (the pdf of the design plan)
- We should hear about the \$7500 grant from the City of Ottawa on June 9th. *(Addendum at the time of writing the minutes: this grant was approved!)*

5) Leaving Ceremony

- June 24th @ 10am in the gym
- Each graduate will receive a t-shirt.
 - Cost: \$591 - a coupon = \$491 for the shirts. School and Council to each pay ½ the cost.
- A plaque will be engraved with the names of all of the graduates to accompany the mounted class photo (to be displayed in the school hallway). Cost: \$259
- No other awards to be given this year. In light of the extraordinary school experience these graduates have had and the significant growth they have all shown in the face of adversity.
- Pizza: every student will receive 1 pizza slice free. Families can buy more slices (order ahead of time) for their graduate or for family members. Tickets will be handed out for the pizza. Cost of pizza is estimated at \$250.

- Council will order cake. (Costco was suggested -- they are now accepting orders for their big sheet cakes again).

6) PRO Grant Speaker

- June 14th. Digital Storytelling. Some other schools are invited to join.

Meeting Adjourned.