

## **Bells Corners Public School Council Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** Tuesday, Feb. 7th, 2023 6:30pm (Virtual Meeting)

Present: Sadhana Lad, Marianne Tilton, Elysa Esposito, Sandra Pedersen, Amy Cameron, Dina Elsayed, Paisley Fleming, Marc Reside, Tracy Danell

Meeting called to order by Sandra at 6:34pm

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved: Paisley

Seconded: Troy

Passed with all in favour.

### **Approval of previous Minutes**

Moved: Sandra

Seconded: Dina

Passed with all in favour.

### **Principal's Report - Sadhana Lad**

The month of January was definitely off to a good start with high expectations for our students. Students engaged in continuing with our school improvement goal of literacy by engaging in a variety of literacy activities from phonemic awareness to decoding. The active view of reading is a guide for staff in their instructional approach with students at BCPS and the focus is to provide the tools to develop student's literacy skills. We have introduced one literacy tutor that takes small groups and we also have two math tutors that work on targeted instruction in the area of math.

BCPS have introduced intramural dodgeball and chess club to the list of extra curricular activities that are offered to students during recess. We also introduced Ottawa public health nurses into our school to honour discussions of well being to address mental health needs and ways to identify these feelings and how to manage and access support.

February is Black History month and students are engaging in many discussions about the contributions of many Black Canadians and educators continue to integrate a diversity of literature representations in their lesson planning. In addition, we have Kindness Day of Activities where staff will collectively complete an activity on integrity on Feb 16th.

Report Cards will be accessed online on February 15th.

MFI night tomorrow - virtual or in person @ 6:30pm

Toonie Tuesday is coming up on February 21st (collecting Feb 13 - 21).

### Teacher Report - Marianne Tilton

- Introduction of math and literacy tutors into the daily programming at BCPs is supporting teachers in delivering curriculum and supporting students with lagging skills.
- Teachers are putting final touches on report cards, which will be released to families next week. There are no official teacher-guardian interviews this term, but parents with questions or concerns can reach out to educators for phone, virtual, or in person meetings to discuss the report card.

### Treasurer's Report

**Current Balance as of 4 Feb 2023:** \$25,459.80

#### Per statement dated 20 Jan 2023:

Closing Balance as of 20 Jan 2023: \$25,167.32

Outstanding cheques as of 20 Jan 2023: \$4,227.47

Cash on hand: Nil

Approximate balance available: **\$ 1,800** (unassigned funds)

#### Notes:

- The McMillians fundraiser has been deposited - the amount raised was **\$894.75**
- Amount raised from fall pizza days was **\$1253.88**
- \$1,091.76 was provided to staff for classroom supplies to date, leaving \$408.24 available in the allotted funds if any additional staff wishes to submit receipts
- \$2,300.00 remains allotted for Scientist in School/Virtual Ventures, but there is room to increase the amount
- \$200.00 is also allotted for lice treatment in case that's needed
- For Pizza Days this winter, Council has been asked to donate pizza for 9 kids @1 slice (\$153.00 – please correct me if I'm wrong on that, I believe it's \$17 per term). For recordkeeping, I have included this as an "expense" and the cost will come out of the totals at the end.
- The sports equipment (nets) will cost approximately \$90 more than initially expected. Elysa will let Council know and we will provide the extra amount to cover the cost.
- I was speaking with Leslie a few months ago and she mentioned that some schools manage the Council funds on their behalf. While this wouldn't alleviate the need for a Treasurer (I don't think) it may make it easier to find volunteers if there is not the requirement to do bank runs etc. Is this something we could consider? I'm not sure how much added complication it would be for the staff, but it might be worth discussing for next year.

#### Items for future planning:

- 2023 Auction
- Grade 6 leaving ceremony
- Grade 6 year-end field trip?
  - It is possible to rent OCTranspo bus instead of school bus? Details are here (<https://www.octranspo.com/en/our-services/bus-o-train-network/service-types/charters>) and maybe there's a way to get a discount for a school.
  - Depending on how many Grade 6 kids we have, a double decker might be able to bring all the classes together and the added bonus of giving them an idea of what bussing to school will be like next year.
  - I have a contact at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum and could see how deep the ticket discounts could be.
  - Amy had suggested allowing the Grade 6 students to run a Subway lunch day to raise money for a year end trip which I think would be great.
- End of year BBQ
  - Some suggestions for the year end BBQ included food trucks and Katie suggested Holmespun Ice Cream and/or Le Donut as options. It would be nice to support local businesses and let students/guests buy a treat.
    - Holmespun used to do a fundraiser where 10% of the profit goes back to the school, which could be a nice bonus.

#### Food for thought:

- There is \$10,869.46 set aside for the kinder yard improvement and \$1,906.08 for the outdoor learning centre.
  - Not necessarily for this year, but it might be valuable to survey the educators to see if there is anything lacking from the improvements that we could help support.
  - If we go ahead with the grant for an Indigenous medicine garden, we could augment that with some of the funds allocated for the outdoor learning centre.

#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

- We will need a Treasurer for next year since I will no longer have a child in the school. It's required for Council to exist. Being the Treasurer is AWESOME! And you definitely don't have to write a 2 pager for every Council meeting 😊

#### Teacher Wishlist Update

#### Matters for Discussion

- [\\$750 Grant - Feb. 20](#)
  - Diversity and Inclusion grant
  - Need someone to write the grant proposal:

- Troy is volunteering Erin, as she did an excellent job last year.
- Erin is not present, and may not have time, so Troy is willing to take a stab at it.
- Proposal is to use the grant to repair and refresh the Indigenous Medicine Herb Garden in the Outdoor Learning Centre.
- Cake Walk Update
  - Ticket Orders are coming in
  - Paisley has requested the digital template from the school for the tickets to make creating new tickets easier for next year
- Movie Night in May
  - Do we want to do this? Consensus is Yes.
  - Free Admission, Funds raised through concession stand
- Little Caesar's
  - Going ahead in March
  - See previous meeting minutes for specific dates
- Book Fair
  - Will go ahead in April
  - Will need volunteers in order to run it a whole week (once dates are confirmed)
- School Clothing
  - Forms went home today
  - Tracy wants to know the sizes
  - The school has some samples in the office
- Gr 6 Leaving Ceremony
  - Tabled for now (we have some time before we need to lay out details)
- End of Year BBQ
  - Tabled
- Field Trips
  - Discussion around the possibility of using OC Transpo for field trip transportation
  - Elysa will reach out again concerning Swim to Survive field trip, depending on further transportation options
  - Amy did reach out to the city concerning Swim to Survive and discussed issues with transportation and asked about whether there will be more opportunities made available for schools who could not take the available times
  - There is a lot of work happening behind the scenes by the educators trying to line up opportunities, but there are fewer opportunities for trips available, and more logistics issues such as transportation and available supervisors, teachers and volunteers
- Lice Kits
  - The school has sent current supply of Lice Kits out to parents of students who are identified
  - Parent Council has confirmed \$200 to use towards replenishing and using tea tree oil.
- Volunteers for Kindergarten Fun Day

- Date: Feb 24th, starting at 2PM
- Need some parent volunteers to come and make and serve some hot chocolate for the attendees
- Sandra and Paisley are volunteering

### **Other Items**

### **Announcements (next meeting)**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 - 6:30pm (Virtual)

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm