

Bells Corners Public School Council Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday November 7th 2023, 6:51pm (In-Person - online not working)

Present: Sadhana Lad, Marianne Tilton, Paisley Fleming, Destinee Quick, Sandra Pedersen, Troy Baker, Amy Cameron, Meaghan Mullen, Stacey Price, Tracy Dannell (via Video Call on Amy's phone), Kaylee Jobin, [Fresh-Baked Cookies \(LOL\)](#)

Absent: Elysa Esposito, Dina Mohey, Robabah Najafi, Nina Jensen, Katie Moore

Meeting called to order by Sandra at 6:51pm

Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes

Moved: Troy

Seconded: Destinee

Passed with all in favour.

Principal's Report - Sadhana Lad

The BCPS school year is definitely taking shape where student leaders are leading the way in the area of organizing clubs and developing strategies for public speaking. Student led clubs are taking place throughout the week, knitting, coding, pokemon, and drama club. Similarly, we had many share their learning at our monthly assembly. This week, we also welcomed two student leaders that will manage and speak at our Remembrance Day Assembly.

Progress reports are coming home on November 16. Educators have been assessing students and it will give an early indication of how your child is progressing. Please take an opportunity to come in and meet your child's teacher and this is a great opportunity to ask any questions. We will be using an online booking system this year. A message will be sent out to families on November 15th with instructions on how to book online. Interviews take place the evening of November 23rd and the morning of November 24th.

EQAO

EQAO achievement was sent home to families last month. Our data shows steady growth with our grade 3s in all areas: math, reading and writing. Our results are comparable to those in our District and the provincial level. We saw a slight decline for our grade 6s in all areas: math, reading, writing. Sadhana and Elysa met with our data

analysis team from our District to discuss our data. We learned that our population grew greatly from 2021-2022 to the 2022-2023 school year in grade 6 which means we have welcomed a variety of students to our school. EQAO is really a team effort from educators in grades kindergarten all the way to grade 6. Therefore, the varied educational background of our students may have played a role in these results. Our data analysis team says they are curious to see if our population grows yet again this year and what this will do to our data for this upcoming school year.

EQAO is an opportunity for our school team to analyze the results and make learning improvement plans for the school year. We are excited to welcome a learning coach for Math and a reading intervention teacher who will be visiting our school once a week and working closely with our educators and students. We continue to learn more about the online platform that EQAO has recently used over the past 2 years and we notice growth in our students becoming stronger digital citizens and learners. We have many things to celebrate at BCPS as well as exciting learning and continued growth that will take place again this year.

Halloween Dance: Thank You To Council!

A huge thank you to the School Council and Destinee for leading the dance and organizing the many last minute forms. Students were excited to attend and really enjoyed their time during this event. Bringing the community together is greatly appreciated.

The Love Of Reading: Indigo Fundraiser

Our partnership with Indigo has been quite successful. The final totals on Indigo's fundraising efforts are \$4178.85. This is a combination of online and in store sales. Indigo is also offering 30% off our purchases, which should also help in choosing a variety of diverse books for our students.

Library Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for our library. So far one parent is coming in to shelve books and we are extremely grateful. We have a part-time librarian and there are many books that she needs to get into circulation and we are re-imaging our library to reflect the needs and diversity of our students. These changes will place books in the hands of students and they can access a variety of interests. If you are a parent of a student who attends BCPS then we do not need a record check but if a grandparent or outside individual would like to volunteer, then we need to register with ONFE our volunteer organization.

We are also looking for someone who would be willing to come in every second Monday to help create brown bag lunches for our students who need a little extra in their lunches. Our Healthy Snack monitor is only paid 1.5 hrs/day and it does not give

enough time to accomplish all that she does to feed our students. We currently have a parent volunteer who comes in for about an hour every Monday to help prepare the bagged lunches for the week. However, this parent would like to go down to every other week. So, we would love if someone is able to volunteer about an hour every other week to help with this.

Requests

We are engaging intensive hands-on reading support through our UFLI instruction and I was wondering if we can request the purchase of markers that we have bought through Amazon and wondering if Council can split the cost with us. The use of the markers are beneficial to the students where they are working daily through the activities. The cost is \$75.00 and the school will cover the cost for the rest. It is 150.00 in total.

We would also appreciate your support in covering the cost of mini whiteboards for language and math instruction.

For Consideration- A Possible Opportunity:

The MediaSmarts team is mostly located in Ottawa and we can have a facilitator conduct an in-person session locally or a virtual session depending on your preference.

We typically ask for an honorarium of about \$1,000+HST for an in-person presentation and \$750+HST for a virtual presentation (these fees go back into our operating costs as a registered charity), however we can be flexible and try to work within your budget.

We do have pre-existing workshop content, and these are two workshops we have that are popular for the parents of the elementary age group:

[Parenting the Digital Generation](#)

The *Parenting the Digital Generation* workshop looks at the various activities kids love to do online and offers tips and strategies for everything from Facebook privacy settings, online shopping, cyberbullying, to protecting your computer from viruses.

[Explore Digital Parenting](#)

Explore Digital Parenting looks at managing kids' screen time, helping to keep your kids safe online, and setting household internet rules. (This workshop was specially designed with marginalized communities in mind, including newcomers to Canada).

Educator's Report - Marianne Tilton

Nothing new to report, other than the Love 2 Groove ask to be responded to.

Treasurer's Report

Current Balance as of 3 Nov 2023: \$29,604.76

Per statement dated 20 Oct 2023:

Closing Balance as of 20 Oct 2023: \$24,600.19

Outstanding cheques as of 20 Jan 2023: \$2,347.80

Cash on hand: Nil

Approximate balance available: \$ 4,800 (unassigned funds)

[See full Treasurer Report here](#)

Matters for Discussion

We have a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, who has donated \$750 to BCPS for the express purpose of having senior staff at BCPS use the money for students in need, whether it be for outdoor gear, or basic necessities such as socks and underwear. The money will be given via cheque to BCPS and Leslie Lang will see to it that it ends up in the right place for tax purposes etc. There will be ongoing donations. The donor asks that there be a name given to this fund to honour the loved ones who inspired them and made it possible. The name of this fund is: The Garnett and Elsie Bilmar Fund for Kids. The donor is entrusting these funds and will not be involved in its distribution/use so long as the spirit in which it was intended is honoured - to help children and families in need.

1. Halloween Dance recap
 - a. three forms went missing - possibly miscommunication between office or handed in between classes etc
 - b. Children on play structure outside, parents responsible, but still was not ideal. Need to rethink for next year.
 - c. Extra Cash Box needed - Sandra to donate one
 - d. Issues with Volunteers not properly accounted for, for pizza slices, Consider a sign up form with pizza preference - cheese, pepperoni, gf/df - 5 Volunteer Cap, no friends,
 - e. Drinks should be at pizza station, candies and toys and raffle at the back, people can pre-purchase
 - f. highly visible signs for pizza/drinks
 - g. added toys - huge hit \$1 for three of anything
2. MacMillans vs [DFS Canada](#) - Troy to recap
 - a. DFS - wrapping paper, winter, Holidays, some of the same food products as MacMillans
 - b. MacMillans - cookies, soups, etc

- i. A lengthy discussion of which fundraiser would be best suited for BCPS followed. Opinions and concerns were aired and everything seemed to end on a balanced understanding that all students and families should feel safe to express and share what they celebrate and no one should be diminished or ashamed of their traditions. All opinions and concerns were voiced from a place of love and care. MacMillans was ultimately chosen because it applies to a broader range of students and their families and would be a more successful fundraiser overall - especially with a history of already being popular with our BCPS families (2022 Winter Fundraiser).
 - c. Tracy brought up: Parent Survey for what kinds of fundraisers they're interested in, what are we promoting, what are we attaching to, waste, big corporations - to send to council at a later date/time.
 3. The question of an Iftar event during Ramadan was also raised. Nothing conclusive decided. Will discuss again at a later date. Everyone loved the idea of sharing important events and traditions of our students and families with those in our broader school community. With the rich diversity of cultures and beliefs at BCPS, more thought, time, attention, and discussion is needed before anything is decided.

THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING (DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS)

- a. Pizza Days update - Amy
- b. Tracy - polling questions
- c. [Sanctioned and Unsanctioned events](#)

Other Items

a) Motion to cover Literacy Supplies - markers \$75, \$100 for white boards

Moved: Paisley

Seconded: Troy

b) Motion: Go with MacMillans for winter fundraiser

1. Motioned: Troy
2. Seconded: Destinee

c) Council agrees similar budget to last year for Love to Groove - motion deferred to next time - discussion deferred

Announcements (next meeting)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Dec 5th, 2023 - 6:30pm (In Person/Online)



Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30