Meeting Minutes

Balmy Beach Community School

Parent Advisory Council Meeting: January 17th, 2024 7:00 pm

Location: [Zoom](https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/2755498451?pwd=Ykp5eG5tOE9SY0g2MWhtQWkraDhEZz09), Meeting ID: 275 549 8451, Passcode: 542969

**Decisions or Significant Discussions**

1. Monday January 22nd Ms. Ruweida Hassan-Bismilla will be returning to Balmy as interim principal until the end of January. Mr. Yee will serve as interim principal starting February 3rd.

1. **We will likely see high turnover of interim principals for the foreseeable future.** Mr. Green is on leave until he returns. The qualified principals and vice principals who can fill in at Balmy can only fill in for short periods of time (weeks not months) due to contractual obligations.
2. **Interim principal turnover impacts the Parent Council event planning significantly** because principal sign off and principal attendance are required for school event permitting.
3. **Parent Council events that ran in November and December went well.**
4. **Parent Council spending is on budget.**

1. **Parent volunteers are needed now,** and for the various jobs later in the winter and spring**.** Without a lot of parent volunteers The Parent Council will not be able to run all of the events planned.

**Meeting Minutes in Detail**

1. Introductions

Co-chairs: Joanna Newman and Erica Conway, Secretary: Erica Brown, Treasurer: Salimah Nasser

1. Principal’s Update (Mr Roddy Wetherell, Interim Principal)

Upcoming Interim Principal Schedule

Mr. Wetherell will finish as interim principal Thursday January 19th. Parents were notified of this by the Superintendent today, January 17th and the students will be informed tomorrow, January 18th.

On Monday January 22nd Ms. Ruweida Hassan-Bismilla will be returning to Balmy as interim principal until the end of January.

Mr. Yee will follow Ms. Hassan-Bismilla as interim principal, starting on February 3rd.

Principal Feedback

Mr. Wetherell has had a very positive experience at Balmy Beach. The teachers, staff, kids and parents are cooperative and welcoming. Everyone works well as a cohesive group, which is not always the case when a principal is on leave.

Parent's Questions

Parents had many questions related to concerns over high principal turnover. Questions like why are so many different principals filling in, what about consistency in managing ongoing long term disciplinary issues, what about teacher placements, staffing levels and student placement decisions for next year considering the lack of principal continuity?

Principal Reply

Mr. Wetherell answered each question directly and specifically.

**Actions**: Mr. Wetherell would leave a note asking the next principal to follow up with parents about how parent input was reflected in the School Improvement Plan. The note would also mention that parents have requested better communication about new principals filling in.

1. Recap of December Events (Erica Conway)

Hot Chocolate went well.

The Gingerbread Tea Event was a kindergarten fundraiser and social. We hope to repeat next year, potentially for more grades.

1. Wishlist Budget Report - Money Spent To Date (Salimah Nasser)

Spending is currently on budget.

A chart of spending to date was shared.

**Attached**: An overview of the financial details provided.

1. Enrichment Update (Erica Conway)
	1. Jungle Sport (December 18-22) Multi day Physical Education and Health Activity K - 6

 Provides a lot of value for the cost. Plan to continue to offer it next year.

1. Rhythm Works (March 18) A music and drumming workshop.
2. Blank Canvas (Mid April) A visual arts enrichment activity.
3. Equity Workshop For Parents Discussing similar themes to Turtle Island Enrichment is being looked into

1. Upcoming Council Organized Events  (Erica Conway)
2. Family Skate Night Thursday February 1, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
3. Movie Night Thursday February 29, Evening, at Balmy
4. Parents Night Out April
5. Spring Fair (formerly Fall Fair) Sunday June 2, Daytime, at Balmy

7. Spring Fair Update (Alex Lopes)

Major vendors are booked.

Volunteers Needed for:

- Activity Station Leads: Prize Zone, Carnival Games, Sculpture Contest

- Day-of volunteers

8. Call for Volunteers and Fundraising Committee

Without parent volunteers, Parent Council events will not be able to run. Without events we cannot fundraise to provide special activities like Jungle Sport and Special Assemblies like Rhythm Works.

Volunteers are need for:

* Parents Night Out - Help source a venue
* Parents Night Out - Help source donations
* Family Skate - Volunteer at event

9. Other Comments

- We should raise more awareness, so that students know which activities are funded by the Parent’s Council.

- Comments and concerns about school, and comments asking the principal to communicate specific information should go directly to the principal.

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday March 27, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Please email  balmybeachcouncil@gmail.com to volunteer or for more information.