**Brian Public School Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 19, 2015 @ 7:00pm**

**In attendance:**

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| --- | --- |
| Venessa Kerman | Angela Tsitsos |
| Brad Fonseca | Louis Tsitsos |
| Nelle Hyde | Mario Velocchi |
| Nora Maksay | Cyndy Barrington |
| Aretha Phillip | Andrea Marsh |
| Ping Xiao | Tom Cutz |
| (Vice Principal) Bob Pelletier | George Kotsirilos |
| Pauline Palmer | Rupa Velocchi |
| Sara Knowles |  |

1. **Call to Order**

* A regular meeting of the Brian Public School Council was held at Brian PS Library at 7:05 pm on Tuesday May 19, 2015, Aretha Phillips - Council Chair residing.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

* Aretha welcomed all attendees, introductions / round table followed

1. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

* Agenda approved

1. **April 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

* Minutes approved – Mario & Ping

1. **Business Arising:**

**Brian’s got Talents video-taping**

* Tom was to gather info on video-taping Brian’s got Talent
* Static camera to tape event that can be sold to parents
* Concern given the length of the event in terms of uploading to TDSB website…wouldn’t get the bandwidth necessary
* Also concerns with having this available to all…some parents might not feel comfortable with having their kids videotaped
* Can have permission / release for this added to permission form for those who are participating
* Tom would be willing to video-tape and edit the film
* His thoughts are to make video files for each performance and only the file with their kids would be provided to respective parents
* Could be challenging if a lot of performers
* Has to be at arm’s length for school staff…they can’t be involved
* Sara Knowles volunteered her husband to assist Tom
* As gym space is at a premium, the ask is that filming be done from the back
* Suggestion to take the logistic’s offline and figure it out then touch base with Mr. Farrell / Cyndy Barrington

1. **Chair’s Report:**

**Fun Fair**

* Fun Fair moving along well
* Started as small BBQ, but has grown considerably
* If anyone knows of any volunteers let Ping and / or Pauline know

**Mr Owen**

* Recovering from heart surgery
* Recommend to send something to him
* Motion put forth to get him something not to exceed $100
* George & Mario approved

**Next Year’s Council**

* At next meeting set dates for next year's council meeting
* Thoughts that leaving it on one day means some parents can never attend
* Present a rotating Tues, Wed, Thurs model

**Election Committee**

* Have to strike up a committee for the election of Brian PS School Council
* Responsible to:
  + Arrange to have election next September
  + Get information out to parents
  + Hold election

**Parent’s action committee**

* Fix our Schools – started by parents
* Working with TDSB to see about getting schools in poor repair fixed
* Can get more detail at the below link:
  + [www.fixourschools.org](http://www.fixourschools.org)

**TDSB Updates**

* Board is looking at hiring an Integrity officer to oversee integrity of the <??? – insert here>
* Mental and physical health issues are on the rise for young children, looking to create a overarching health strategy
* Eco schools being pushed next year,,,.. e.g. walk to school, increase physical activity etc…

**Community**

* City to invest $150K in community projects in Ward 33
* Residents of Ward 33 are suggesting idea’s as to what the funds can be used for
  + Many parents from Brian PS are also involved
* Whichever proposed idea’s get championed will be the ones that get voted on
* Residents 14 and up can vote (this allows kids to have a voice is what is going on in their community)
* City taking ownership….assisting parents in bringing forth and championing ideas

**Ryan’s Law**

* Kids carrying their own epi pens
* Ryan died as he was not allowed to carry his puffer
* Paul Farrell advised that kids have never been prevented from carrying things like puffers and self-administering when needed at Brian

**TDSB self governance**

* Consultations on TDSB governance on TDSB website – parents can provide their input

**PIAC meeting**

* Health and Physical Education curriculum
* Still waiting to get training module from Ministry
* As a result of the strike, teachers may not get training and this might delay rollout
* There are no exemptions from new curriculum, not sure how this will be handled with parents who have religious concerns
* Many parents asking TDSB to take on greater roll in this as schools are the ones who have to deal with parental issues / concerns

**Kiss N Ride**

* Thank you to all parents who came out to help out while Mario was on vacation in Cuba (Kiss n Ride assistants)

1. **Principals’ Report (Paul Farrell and Bob Pelletier):**

* Will have one more French Immersion class next year
* Getting a new portable (Portable 6) - probably go behind playscape
* Work to rule strike action – there are no updates at the moment
* Mural – wait a bit and see what happens with Grades 4, 5 and 6
  + Doing cut outs which will be put out on fence and will see whether want to go ahead with Mural
* Bike to school day coming up…day to be communicated shortly
  + Logistic challenges in terms of what to do with the bikes
  + Place needs to be found to house the bikes for the day
* Eco school review coming up
  + Bar has been risen across the TDSB for each level
  + Not sure whether due to higher expectations we’ll make gold
* Class organization will come out in the final Brian Buzz
* Movie night is this Friday (May 22nd, start time 6:30pm)
* GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) came in From Sir John A McDonald to do a presentation to the grade 6 kids
  + Some tweaking of the presentation needed to be done (toned down)
    - Discussed differences
    - Some kids talked about acceptance
    - Straight kids talked about equity and accepting each other
    - Put out some scenarios and then talked about it, for example;
      * Boy wearing pink to school
      * Girl who plays sports and hangs out with boys all the time
      * Problem solving and getting kids to think about this stuff
  + Kids thought it was really worthwhile
* Younger kids in portable this year worked out really well
  + Biggest classes were in the school (as large classes in portables are very difficult to manage)
  + Working well having grade 2 & 3 in portables
  + Looking to do the same thing next year
* Split classes…try to not have children in split classes two years in a row…try to vary that
  + If have class of 20 grade 2’s and a 2/3 split….have to have a certain level of independence to be in a combined class, if we have the option
* Air Conditioners:
  + Bought 4 air conditioners (one for each portable)
  + They were not designed for the use that they were put to
  + They are noisy and aren’t able to cool down the kids / teacher
  + They don’t work and they ended up making the portable hotter
  + Classrooms upstairs are the hottest in the whole school….portables are not the worst as can open both doors and create a cross breeze
    - Can we put out the blackout blinds in the upper classrooms?
  + Concern with open doors of the portables
    - Portable doors open are not safe….the school is locked but the portables doors are wide open
    - Save money on electricity at the expense of the kids safety
    - Paul Farrell to discuss with V. Principal Pelletier
    - To email Superintendent regarding concerns about the heat in both the portables and upper classrooms and advise
  + What do we do with the air conditioners? Sell them?
  + Suggestion is to sell them as they cannot be used by the school
  + Tom volunteering to assist with this…to investigate what would be a reasonable price and touch base with Aretha
  + Suggestion to try and sell these at the Fun Fair….mention it also at Movie Night
  + Put a notice in the Buzz for Friday May 22nd

1. **Other**

**Extra Monies to be spent (Andrea Maksay)**

* + - Been deferred three times and need some resolution on this….there will be about $3000 that needs to be earmarked
    - Keep approx $1500 as floater to kick off next year
    - Are basic’s covered? I.e. are supplies?
    - If materials that are required for the classroom / part of programming, they have to be paid out of the school budget
    - Idea’s being floated….
  + Coin counter
    - Has old school counter that will cost $17.85 + taxes (Staples)
    - Coins will need to be sorted and then putting coins in tray will indicate how much money worth of coins is there
    - There are no moving parts and will last a long time
      * Yes, will purchase
  + Play items for recess (pals program for recess)
    - Aretha to see about getting a donation from Canadian Tire
    - Cyndy (who runs pals programs) to send list to Aretha to take to Cdn Tire
    - After exploring that, if no go, can bring back to Council
    - No idea of cost at this time
      * This item pending
  + Furniture for library (bean bag things, reading nooks etc…)
    - Could use more bookcases but nothing hugely pressing
    - Bucket seat chairs moved out of the library to Principals office as he needed it to accommodate seeing parents (3 there)
    - 2 are in the VP’s office
      * Recommended that this be deferred for the moment
  + Fridge / freezer - healthy snack (milk program) program
    - Volunteer would be needed to do this
    - How realistic is this considered the difficulty of obtaining volunteers
    - In terms of healthy eating….adding an apple to pizza lunch
      * This item decided against
  + Instruments
    - Could be addition to the music program
    - Getting samples of child friendly guitars (similar to ukulele)
    - Cost about $95 each….class set might not be viable, could start off with about 10 (cost $1000)
    - How can this be used? Guitar club? Principal Farrell suggesting that this should be run by a music teacher
      * Put this on hold for the moment
  + Benches / outdoor furniture
    - * Defer this as need to determine where new portable going
  + Mural – school wide art project
  + Teacher wish list
    - Teachers empowered to buy things that will feed into their lessons (whatever they feel would benefit them)
    - Parameters – Amount and timeframe
    - Given $1500 floater, we could consider minimum $50 / head (as there are 30 teachers) and possibly more if we carry forward monies to be taken in on or before end of year
      * Motion put forth, this item approved
  + Backdrop for stage
    - Cost of backdrop - full kitted outfit…would be approx $5000
    - Attachment system is where the cost is
      * This is being deferred

**Other - Butterflies**

* Butterflies released today…..went really well
* All the kids were excited
* There were many funerals (as many died)
* Next year, will use a different company (or the one used last year) as there was a better turnout the previous year

1. **Event Committee** update

* Fun Fair plans going well
* Deliver to school on June 14th
* We’re getting a skid of canned coffee (donated by Louis Tsitsis)

**CPF looking into applying for Grants**

**Parent Reaching Out grant**

* Bridget completed and submitted the grant – if approved it would mean an influx of $1000

**Kiss N Ride**

* Have grade 6 kids do the Kiss N Ride in 2016/2017
* More volunteers still needed

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:50pm**

***Next meeting: Monday June 22, 2015 7:00 – 8:15 pm***

*See past meeting minutes and other school updates:* [*http://brianpsparentcouncil.webs.com*](http://brianpsparentcouncil.webs.com/)

*Minutes taken by Venessa Kerman*