



BEDFORD PARK

BEDFORD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL - SCHOOL COUNCIL

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, October 9, 2025

7:30 p.m. - School Council Meeting (In-Person)

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Attendees

<u>Executive</u>	<u>School Council Members</u>	<u>Other Attendees</u>
James Bae (Co-Chair) Kathryn Rochette (Co-Chair) Heidi Valkenburg (Treasurer) Bryony Livingston (Secretary) <u>Administration</u> Adam Somer, Principal Jacqui Goldberg, Vice-Principal	See Appendix A	See Appendix B

1. Overview of the Purpose of the School Council

● Elections

- Mr. Somer read out the names from the submitted nomination forms, as there was no need for an election; all candidates were acclaimed to the role of Parent Member. See Appendix A for a complete list of 2025/2026 School Council Parent Members.
- The roles of co-chair, James Bae and Kathryn Rochette, treasurer, Heidi Valkenburg, and secretary, Bryony Livingston, were moved and seconded by the membership.

● Overview of Open Roles and Opportunities to Participate

- Ms. Rochette outlined the role of the School Council in improving student achievement and enhancing parent engagement. She also highlighted the need for more parent volunteers, specifically in the following areas: Fundraising, Events, and Community Night.

2. Opening Matters

● Welcome

- Mr. Bae welcomed the parent community to our first meeting and noted the excellent turnout.

● Agenda Review



BEDFORD PARK

- **Approval of draft minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2025**
 - Ms. Livingston moved to approve the minutes of May 13, 2025, seconded by Ms. Rochette.

3. Administrative Updates

- **Land Acknowledgement**
- **Facilities Update**
 - Mr. Somer discussed recent facilities improvements, including the installation of gates at the school yard entrances, and encouraged parents to continue to use the gates during school hours.
 - It was noted that the signage around the gates could be better in order to keep the school safe for younger children.
 - An update was requested regarding security cameras. Mr. Somer will ask for a status update to provide at the next meeting.
- **Academics**
 - Mr. Somer outlined the decision made by the board last year to reduce the VP role to part-time. Ms. Goldberg is still full-time in the school, but is now also working as a teacher.
 - Ms. Goldberg discussed the rollout of IEPs, timing for Fall progress reports, and upcoming CCAT assessments.
 - Mr. Somer noted that Student Council elections are underway for grades 6/7/8, and that grades 4-8 will have class reps sitting on the Student Council.

4. Event Committee

- **Events Planned for 2025/2026 Academic Year**
 - Ms. Khazemi introduced herself as the new Lead of the Events Committee and outlined the upcoming events:
 - Movie Night
 - Family Skate
 - Parent Sip in Paint
 - Call out for more committee members.

5. Treasury Report

- **Budget Review**
 - Ms. Valkenburg went through the Council's current finances. It was noted that the two main fundraisers currently scheduled, Community Night and Pizza Lunch, do not raise enough to fund the budget. Fundraising efforts need to increase if the Council wants to keep funding the activities that the School is used to having.



BEDFORD PARK

- Academic Enrichment is available to all teachers.
 - Capital Expenses, currently, the Council is assisting with purchasing new technology for the school, and evaluating the possible purchase of a sports equipment cage (more information to come).
 - The events committee is working towards events being self-funded and possibly raising funds.
 - Council is working with the Grade 8 Fundraising Committee to avoid duplication.
 - The newly formed Student Council will also be asked to influence decisions around fundraising and expenditures based on student need.
 - There are currently passive fundraising efforts that need to be advertised and need parent volunteers (i.e., Purdy's Chocolates).
- **Upcoming Expenditures**

6. Discussion of Class Liaison Role

- **Description of Role Responsibilities**
 - Ms. Rochette announced that class liaisons have been found for every class.
- **Guidance on Appropriate Means of Collecting and Communicating Information**
 - Following TDSB policy and in response to parent concerns, Class Liaisons are no longer permitted to collect money (i.e., for group gifts).
 - Class Liaisons will only be communicating through email, not WhatsApp groups, and will only be fielding School Council-related inquiries.
 - A request was made for clarification regarding these policies. Mr. Somer noted that he would look into the matter further for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Review of School Statement of Needs (SSON)

- Ms. Rochette outlined the content of the SSON, encouraged parent engagement and input; the report is due mid-November.

8. Additional Items

- **School Reorganization**
 - Mr. Somer explained that due to lower than expected enrollment numbers, changes to the grade 7 and grade 8 classrooms meant changes all the way down. It was noted that this process was difficult for many of the



BEDFORD PARK

children. Mr. Somer noted that concerned parents are welcome to discuss the matter more with him directly.

- **School Council Survey**

- Mr. Bae discussed the implementation of a survey in the hope that the School Council can get direct feedback from the parent community. The results of the survey will also assist in writing the SSON. A summary of the responses collected will be made available.

- **Chromebooks/Technology**

- Mr. Somer noted that the school is waiting on final numbers to budget for classroom technology; an update will be provided at the next meeting.

- **School Cash Online Donations**

- In the past, the Council has solicited donations directly from parents, and a legacy template donation letter is available. It was also requested that the administration look into whether we can collect these donations through School Cash Online.

- **School Lunches**

- An ask was made for more lunch options, particularly the frequency of pizza lunch. It was suggested that Grade 7/8s could help with delivery to alleviate pressure on working parents.

9. Questions & Closing Remarks

- Mr. Somer addressed questions regarding changes to the Blues and communication practices from the school.
- Mr. Bae encouraged participation on committees.

On a motion duly held, the meeting was then closed at 8:24 pm



BEDFORD PARK

APPENDIX A

List of 2025/2026 Bedford Park School Council Parent Members

- Andrea Reid (Absent)
- Asal Kazemi
- Bryony Livingston
- Heidi Valkenburg
- James Bae
- Jason Bourgeois
- Jeannette Holder
- Kathryn Rochette
- Michelle Peng Greenberg
- Renee Kates
- Renee Perri
- Tricia Madill (Absent)



BEDFORD PARK

APPENDIX B

Other Attendees - October 9, 2025

- Alison Martins
- Amanda Krahn
- Carmen Luk
- Chelsea Smith
- Chen Stapells
- Chris Martins
- Christine Innes
- Diana Lipson
- Faezeh Karam
- Gillian Marr
- Golnar Kamalvand
- Jason Bourgeois
- Jeannette Holder
- Jennifer Tran
- Jessica Shames
- Jon Roberts
- Katelyn Elder
- Kristina Braeten
- Laura Barnett
- Lesley McCabe
- Mandy Malloy
- Mark Shopiro
- Michael Elder
- Michelle Peng Greenberg
- Narges Ayat
- Nicole Nguyen
- Paul Riis
- Renee Kates
- Renee Perri
- Sarah Usher-Jones
- Shahram Khameneh
- Susannah Gouinlock
- Takanori Nagatomo
- Uma Singh
- Vikki Shimoda