

# Birch Cliff Public School

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## *Council Meeting Minutes: March 27, 2019*

Committee Attendees: Principal Vine, Ms. Secher (kindergarten teacher), Kerry Cotton (Chair), Julia Salerno (Wellness Coordinator), Amy Corcoran (community Rep), Natalie DaSilva (Parent Classroom Rep), (Michelle Whetter (Parent Classroom Rep).

Meeting started at 6:30 pm

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- Student Council Update:
  - The Student Council has organized several school spirit events since October and plans to hold various other special events, such as: Twin Day on April 5; a School Dance on April 18; Dress as a Teacher Day on May 3; and Hawaiian Day on June 21. They will also host a Birch Cliff Spirit Day the day before Track & Field.
- Bike to School Project:
  - Samuel Perry of the Bike to School Project addressed the SAC about the benefits of “active school travel.” His initiative brings awareness to safer streets around schools so that parents and children feel more comfortable walking, biking or scooter-ing to school on a regular basis. Did you know that children under the age of 13 can ride their bikes on the sidewalk?
  - In order to feel safe walking or biking to school, we need to have walking + biking infrastructure in place. “Complete streets” make the roads safer for everyone using them and have been proven to reduce speeding and other road-safety issues. He encourages BC parents to speak to local and provincial representatives to bring this infrastructure in to the area.
  - The TDSB encourages active school travel with three official Walk to School Days. Principal Vine proposes BCPS start a “Walk Wednesdays” as a school-wide initiative to get more active and encourage safe commuting to and from school each day beginning in April. The school will begin collecting data and record how many “walkers” are in each class. SAC would then potentially reward the school if the numbers increase over time.
- Principal’s Report:
  - Construction: A daycare will be constructed on site as part of the previous Government’s push to fund nursery care. Principal Vine asked Viktor for an update – design is complete, but funding is still pending approval. Construction is delayed and not likely on schedule for early May 2020 completion.

- Principal Vine and SAC recommend Glen Kremp to lead a traffic sub-committee. He has strong construction knowledge and is an active community member. He will be the voice of BCPS parents to help ensure the construction process runs as smoothly as possible.
  - Staffing and room usage. We have received the first round of numbers which are for baseline classroom teachers, special ed in the school, and library. Good news is we are not declaring surplus at this time. Staffing numbers and projected enrollment have been shared with Kerry and Stacey and they too, will in addition to the staff, be nominating potential class organizations for next year. Principal Vine continues to advocate for a Vice Principal based on the projected number of students expected over the next few years.
  - The Intermediate Autism program will be closing. We will be adding a French Immersion room or two. All other staffing numbers will be finalized April 23<sup>rd</sup> and if the numbers change we may need to redo the classroom organization.
  - The school was visited recently by Peter Chang and the Executive Superintendent for LC3 – Roula Anastakos. They wanted to see our school as a result of the improvement in our primary reading scores. Principal Vine recognizes the efforts of the staff and the financial support of the SAC as playing a big part in this success. We will continue to work with our reading coach and have further PD scheduled with Juniors to continue to focus on math, and Intermediates will be setting up a couple of dates with Birchmount Park CI to increase the communication and sharing with the high school.
- Chair's Report:
    - Kerry estimated \$4,500 to fund Scientists in the School for every class from the Purdy's Easter fundraiser. Given the current projected numbers, SAC will likely have to contribute to the money raised to fund the project. The deadline to purchase Purdy's and support this initiative is March 31.
    - The BCPS Fun Fair is scheduled for June 1. There will be great community support with attendance by PSB Dance Academy, Scarborough Cycles, Jack of all Sports, Bob Acton, bouncy castles, local police with cars, fantastic silent auction items and much, much more. Corporate sponsorship is welcome and appreciated – logo stays on signage displayed on Kingston Rd. Volunteers are needed and welcome, please contact Kerry.
    - SAC will host a Teacher Appreciation Lunch/brunch on Tuesday, May 7. Donations from parents of brunch items greatly appreciated. Further details to come.

- Budget Update:
    - Chris, SAC Treasurer is away – Kerry presented: The Purdy’s fundraiser will help fund Scientists in the School and Munch-a-Lunch funding will bring in approximately \$3,000. SAC will host a Teacher Appreciation Lunch on Tuesday, May 7.
    - The money raised so far this year has purchased, Chrome Books, Math Manipulatives, French Dictionaries, lots of Leveled non curriculum reading books for various grades, Skate Day Treats, Financial Aid for school trips and Kearney for students, Silver Birch Novels for Library and upcoming, Scientists in the School, more books and other.
  
  - Ms. Secher’s Update:
    - Junior Chess Tournament to take place on Tuesday at Westwood Middle School; the Folk Dancing Jamboree has not been confirmed, but believed to be June 10 or 11; April 10 is International Day of Pink; Track date is May 14. BCPS day is April 30; Jump for Heart is May 23 or rain day 24th.
    - To Come: Kindergarten Orientation is May 29; Easter events will come during the second week of April; and Flag Rugby Teams to start up.
    - Ms. Secher thanks the SAC for providing hot chocolate and Timbits on Skate Day. It was very successful.
  
  - Questions:

Note from Amy: Please ask older kids to stop playing with bike locks. Principal Vine to address this on the announcements.
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Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm  
Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2019.