Birch Cliff Public School

Council Meeting Minutes: November 19, 2018

Committee Attendees: Principal Vine, Ms. Secher (kindergarten teacher), Kerry Cotton (Chair), Stacey McDonald (Co-Chair), Chris Borycheski (Treasurer), Meghan Price (Secretary) Kim Martin (Communications), Julia Salerno (Wellness Coordinator), Michelle Whetter (Parent Classroom Rep), Richelle Wheeler (Parent Classroom Rep), Trustee Parthi Kandavel

Meeting started at 6:30 pm

**Welcome**

**Principal’s Report:**

* Review of school budget and budget holders. Just spent over $10,000 on badly needed reading materials - focus from Kindergarten to Grade 4 with guided reading books, upper junior are getting a reading program that is based on indigenous culture, intermediates (and others) will have access to an atlas of Indigenous groups and their geographical locations.
* Sports events will continue at BC with focus on one teacher coach and parent volunteers to help in order to avoid extra teachers out of classrooms and unnecessary money spent on supply teachers.
* Learning coach continues to come in and support teachers in all divisions at BC
* Parents dropping kids off coming into hallways - lack of independence and doesn’t promote responsibility, Gr 1 and up should have no problem coming in the assigned doors, preferably on time each day making their way to their class unless there are specific developmental delays. Please follow TDSB/school policy and remain outside the school - support your child's growth by allowing them to do the things they can without parental support. Note is going on the BCB for the next while and all staff are asked to reinforce this expectation.
* Winter Concert - discussion with staff, in order to accommodate the needs of the parents along with the wishes of the staff - following will be happening. Many options requested including splitting classes - ½ now and ½ in spring. Realize importance of seeing faces on stage so...Craft Night or Festival of lights Kindergarten concert is in the afternoon, Primary is early evening, Junior/Intermediate follows Primary time-slot. Wednesday, December 19th; Dress rehearsal Tuesday, December 18th and can be extended by grandparents etc.

**Wishlist from Teachers to School Council**

* Chromebooks - would like 10 more to add to carts of 20 as some classes have more than 20 students and this would ensure each child gets to use one - $4,000
* Math manipulatives $1500
* Financial Assistance for students with need for field trips/pizza lunches/event days etc. Would suggest that the SAC reserve $500 for this purpose
* French Dictionaries for 2 teachers - 20 approx $10 each - $200
* Class set of Silver Birch or Red Maple novels to increase participation and reading in Junior Intermediate - $800
* SK FI - French texts, phonics and alpha card game (Mme Hiler using her own) $210
* Hands on Science Guides for Gr 1-3 $450 to be shared among all primary classes
* **Total $7,660**

\*several items are also requested however staff has prioritized the above items

**Student Council Report:**

There are 10 intermediate members on Student Council, Connor and Leo addressed the SAC.

Upcoming events: Collecting items from classes for donation to Bluffs Food Bank (baby drive, clothing, etc), PJ Day, Christmas Sweater Day, Holiday Hat Day, Christmas Carolling, HO HO HO Contest (dates are TBD and will be shared via Beacon, Hot Chocolate and Candy Grams (orders 10th-13th with delivery on December 18th). Creating a Suggestion Box to collect student input \*this will likely be placed in the office

**Chair Update (including Teacher Wish List items)**

* Parking on west side of Birch Cliff Ave, especially during inclement weather, causes havoc and creates a dangerous environment.
* Posted speed limit sign request for KR to enforce new 40KM speed limit
* Munchalunch popcorn and pizza going well
* Winter clothing drive; first drive in a long time. Pickups on Wednesday and Thursday, any surplus going to Bluffs Food Bank
* 17’ Fraser Fir arriving Nov 28th
* Welcome other festive decor to embrace all cultural celebrations
* Meet Santa Night; hot food room - pasta and pizza, student vendors, pictures with Santa, Vandameer pick up, donations for Food Drive (focus on Baby Items), Basket Raffle
* BC wear arriving end of November or beginning of December
* Recycle program for gently used BC wear
* SAC Bylaws have been drafted and are being reviewed by SAC before widespread distribution

**Ms Secher Update**

* Sr Girls bball @ Blantyre
* JR Girls bball here on 28th
* Jr boys tournament Nov 29th Timberbank
* Primary intramural bball with Mr Vine starting next week
* Me to We team fundraising - Guess the # of Gummie Bears - supports Moonbears
* Ms Corkers girls fundraising
* K-4 Distillery trip for Munsch 29th
* Dec 5th students Raptors game D League
* Hockey team 5-6 2 day tournament; 7-8s start in January

**Council Member Updates**

**Treasurer**

* Revenue generated from Pumpkinfest grossed ($4,400)
* Current SAC bank balance approximately $14,000.00

**Secretary**

Telus provides complimentary Internet Safety presentations; Meghan & Kerry to coordinate for 2019.

**Daycare Update (Trustee Parthi Kandavel, Principal Vine, Trustee/TDSB Facilities Representative)**

* Follow up to Fall letter about the Early childhood centre. Parthi and Victor are present to provide clarity
* Project remains in design phase, anticipated completion in February 2019.
* Construction slated to begin May 2019 and will endure 12-18 months. Centre targeted to opening September 2020
* Site location will be attached to the school, parallel to the staff parking lot that runs off Freeman. Will continue west to the edge of the baseball diamond. Centre will have an enclosed play area that is not available to BCPS students
* Questions asked about benefit and need determined by TDSB and Provincial funding, as to how and why we were chosen as recipient
* Centre will accommodate 10 infant spots, 15 toddlers, and 24 preschoolers
* Chosen by TDSB and Province, Courcellette was initial site however due to limited property size. BCPS has a vast property that can accommodate the centre
* More information to follow as it comes available, likely Q1 2019
* It was determined a parent committee was to be formed to stay close to the decisions being made around the construction of the Daycare and the interruption to the day to day learning of our students. Stay tuned, more to come on this.

**Q&A**

* Health Curriculum; Board has instructed staff to teach the 2015 curriculum
* Before & After program; inquiry about opting for Before OR After only, not both. Parents need to articulate this desire to the Board as they run the program
* Morning Snack Program: discussion about foods on the menu, how parents can opt out if they so choose, focus on reducing sugar and packaged goods with preference to fruits and vegetables

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

Next meeting scheduled for January 16th