

Birch Cliff Public School

Council Meeting Minutes: September 20, 2018

Committee Attendees: Principal Vine, Ms. Secher (kindergarten teacher), Kerry Cotton (Chair), Stacey McDonald (Co-Chair), Chris Borycheski (Treasurer), Kim Martin (Communications), Julia Salerno (Wellness Coordinator), Heather Blencowe-Robertson (Academic Enrichment), Amy Corcoran (community Rep), Michelle Whetter (Parent Classroom Rep), Richelle Wheeler (Parent Classroom Rep)

Meeting started at 6:30 pm

- **Introductions**

- The Chair and Principal Vine reflected their gratitude for the excellent attendance at this first meeting. Approximately 40 parents/guardians attended, including committee members.
- Further, Mr. Vine reflected his delight to see parents with kids of all ages / grades including new parents in attendance.

- **Principal's Report:**

- Mr. Vine shared his enthusiasm about joining the Birch Cliff community and his commitment to working with staff and parents to grow the school from a great school to an exceptional one.
- Mr. Vine reflected: "We've got a good group of students who are well behaved and focused in class, the staff are an excellent and receptive group, and that the parent community is obviously caring and supportive." He looks forward to working with the Birch Cliff school community over the coming years.
 - Lunch program: Mr. Vine has looked carefully at the report from last year. He has moved the kindergarteners to their classrooms to eat for safety and comfort. Mr. Vine is also looking for parents who are interested in working for the TDSB as occasional lunchroom supervisors. As a lunchroom supervisor, you work for 75 minutes per day when needed and a quick and easy interview process and criminal record check are required. To apply, please visit TDSB, search Career, Career Opportunities Support Staff.
 - EQAO scores: Mr. Vine has reviewed last year's scores and shared Primary (grade 3) results from last year and all 6 categories were acceptable. Junior (grade 6) results 5 out of 6 categories acceptable. Our junior math scores were poor. He will be working with staff to address the math issues along with our learning coach and will be providing resources and time where needed. He is also hoping to push guided reading in the primary division.
 - Resources: Mr. Vine noted a large discrepancy at BC with respect to the division of resources in classrooms. Some rooms are sufficiently stocked, while others have very few basic supplies. We need to ensure students have equal access to great reading tools (including books, math manipulatives, document cameras, computers, chromebooks, etc.
 - Construction: A daycare will be constructed on site later this year as part of the previous Government's push to fund nursery care (if it all goes as planned). Mr. Vine also noted his concern that the kindergarten play area should be enclosed at the north end of the yard. He believes this to be an important safety concern and will take what he can get from the Board to

ensure it is as safe as possible for our youngest students. There will a meeting with Mr. Chang to discuss the planning implications of the new preschool. Some parents in attendance expressed interest in becoming involved in a committee to better understand how the construction will affect the school and noted that a consultation did not occur with parents.

- Interruptions to curriculum: parents are asked to follow the Board (and Mr. Vine's) policy when attending the school during school hours. Parents/guardians are to report directly to the office before going to your child's classroom. Please do not interrupt class for any reason.

- For the health and safety of all children it is asked that NO baked goods are sent in to children's classrooms for parties/birthday celebrations. Suggestions for alternate sharing could be pencils, stickers, erasers etc..

- **Budget (Treasurer)**

- Chris did a briefing of the details of last year's "actual" budget July 2017-June 2018

- Last year more than \$33,000 was raised throughout the year, and this year we have done a conservative forecast of \$25,900.

- After all outstanding invoices and bills paid of last year's commitments the Council is left with \$3,390 to start the 2018/2019 school year.

- **Upcoming Events (Chair)**

- Pizza lunches every other Friday. *New* this year Kernels popcorn snack bags every alternating Friday for afternoon recess. For all the "buttersalt" flavor bags we buy, Kernels will donate 10% of the sales to Autism Speaks Canada. For every Fundraising Snack Bag purchased by us, Kernels Popcorn will make a donation to the Kernels Optimism Project, which proudly supports Me to We Charity's international development projects overseas. This means that at the same time we raise money for our cause, we are helping to raise money for another...WIN-WIN!

- Curriculum Night will be scaled back by moving the BBQ portion of the evening to our Pumpkin Fest. By doing so, we are allowing teachers to interact efficiently with parents and go home to their families at a reasonable time. BC Spirit Wear will be displayed and sold. There will also be a focus on email collection in each class.

- Terry Fox Walk apples that are provided by Council will be distributed inside this year to avoid wasps.

- Pumpkin Fest is scheduled for Friday, October 19th from 3:30-7pm. This includes a pre-order pumpkin pick-up, BBQ, games, crafts, Haunted Halls, and music.

- BC will provide a yearbook this year. Ms. Calce will be leading this with some students and with the support and help of the Council.

- The AussieX make up day for last year's session due to weather is scheduled for end of September. A second session was scheduled to start in October, however it was proposed by Mr. Vine to postpone spending on this initiative until we are certain we've used the budget for the classroom equipment upgrades that are needed (see note above in Mr. Vine's remarks). He wants to ensure that first and foremost the money raised will support the kids for good quality education. This will increase our start of budget this year to \$6,441.00

Vote taken after meeting amongst current 10 Home and School Committee members and votes came in at 10 votes for postponing AussieX and 0 votes to go ahead with funds being spent on AussieX at this time.

- **Ms Secher Update**

- First Cross Country invitational went well. Next one is October 10th. A number of junior and senior sports are kicking off with Ms. Secher.
- Junior girls Borden ball practices scheduled on BCPS Calendar on Website.
 - Mr. Vine has volunteered to take on a recess intra-mural program for the younger children to get them started in sports.

- **Questions:**

- Discussion regarding previous Home and School being switched to mandated School Advisory Council. Issue not resolved and Chair and Principal Vine to get further details and follow up with group.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 21st, 2018
