

Bowmore School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 4, 2025
6:00pm to 7:30pm
School Staffroom

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Leah Vojdani)
2. Engagement Survey Results (Andrea Maugham)
 - 1034 students at Bowmore from JK-Grade 8
 - 268 survey respondents - 23% joined the community this year, 78% have not attended Council Meetings. Respondents were balanced in terms of the grades their kids are in.
 - Top Communication Methods: 96% Weekly Bowmore Bulletin, 84% teachers, 83% School Messenger
 - Preferred Method of Communication - 54% School Newsletter
 - Satisfaction of Communications- 74% Happy
 - Communication Recommendations: hundreds of comments received, most were positive and there was constructive feedback. Top comments included: weekly Bowmore Bulletin as primary source, use a consistent template with dedicated Council section, simplify format.
 - Top Council initiatives: Pizza Lunches, Carnival, Spiritwear, Grade 8 grad
 - Barriers to attendance: 46% - Meeting time/day, 13% - lack of interest, 10% - unwelcoming experience.
 - Recommendations for Council:
 - i. Transparent financial reporting
 - ii. Inclusive meeting environment
 - iii. Timely documentation
 - iv. Strategic Communications
 - Community Support - 75% support financially through pizza or donations, 35% volunteered, 33% made a financial contribution
 - Preferred Method of Support - 61% financial contributions
 - Barriers to Volunteering
 - 77% work schedule, 22% childcare, 14% unsure of tasks
 - 55% agreed they would sign up for a volunteer mailing list for details on volunteer opportunities
 - Post opportunities in Bowmore Bulletin
 - Foster an inclusive environment
 - Bowmore Cares Fund (not run by Council): 53% understand the program, 27% have heard about it but don't know how it works, 16% have not heard of the program
 - Conclusion:
 - Redefine engagement given the time constraints people face
 - Enhance communications
 - Strengthen support systems
 - Create welcoming spaces
 - Consistent way to communicate club and team sign ups
3. Engagement Committee Update (Leah Anderson Vojdani)
 - We met a couple weeks ago and will meet again to put the above recommendations in action

4. Literacy Committee Update (Graham Seater)

- Teacher Liaison for Literacy Council
- Budget comes from School Council for items
- This year the budget is \$1,500 to be split evenly between French and English
- Budget will create literacy items that teachers don't already have in classrooms
- There are a few parents that are currently volunteering as reading helpers in the primary grades. Training to be developed to support parents. Voluntary Checks are required.
- Creating two different types of Parent Workshops:
 1. Families of kids who receive more support via parent helpers.
 2. General literacy workshop for parents to be delivered by a current parent.

5. Community DPA Equipment Drive (Veronica Logue)

- DPA bags include sports equipment or imaginative play equipment
- Community Drive to replenish bags
- Kindies - outdoor blocks, mud kitchen supplies, sandbox items, 2 large outdoor storage bins, soccer balls, pumps, etc
- Grades 1-3 - skipping ropes, hula hoops, soccer balls, frisbees, pumps, etc
- Grades 4-6 - pylons, pinnies, all balls, bean bags, etc
- Grades 7-8 - similar as above
- Physical donations begin: Monday, March 17, 2025
- After donations are received, a budget can be made for required remaining items
- We cannot accept items that contain political branding but special requests can be run by the TDSB Business Team
- We also cannot advertise for a company via sports equipment donations
- We could consider getting the students involved in reaching our goal of donations like a thermometer or the class to donate the most to receive a prize.

6. Updates from the Library (Leah Jarvis)

- Read-a-thon has concluded
- Caught you reading photos throughout the school
- Hundreds of tracking sheets and the calculations are being tallied
- Bookmark making contest which will be on display
- Prizes for winners will go out
- Certificate of Participation for all those who handed in a tracking sheets
- Forest of Reading
- Council purchased microbits which is being used for coding program
- Council purchased Dash Robots and are being used with grades 1-3
- Two mattresses built by milk bags and went to Sierra Leone
- Used book sale June 9-13, 2025 - gently used books to be donated in the office or library anytime, which are then sold for fundraising at the sale.

7. Items for voting by Council parent representatives:

i) Reallocation of \$3,500 currently allocated for "Sphero Coding Cars" in the 2024-25 Council budget as follows:

- \$1,500 to the "Clubs Fund"
- \$1,000 to purchase cricket equipment (POR Jarrod Lall)

- \$1,000 to host a school wide steel pan and African drumming performance and tutorial (POR Jarrod Lall on behalf of the Black Student Alliance)

ii) Amendment of funds allocated to "Author Visits for K-8" in the 2024-25 Council budget to include storytelling events. The funds will now be allocated to "Author Visits and Storytelling Events for K-8"

iii) Approval of the following fundraising initiatives:

- Fundraising by the Grad Committee for the purposes of funding the grade 8 graduation activities and also to support the Bowmore Cares Fund.
- Targeted fundraising to support the Council's DPA Equipment Drive should the donations of physical items not fully satisfy the needs of the school.

ALL ITEMS WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

8. Updates from our Admin Team (Teri Molnar, Kosta Flegas and Jacquie Neveu)

- Teri, current Retired Principal gave an update on staffing process
- Admin team to present model to Council before it goes to Superintendent
- Schools get told how many teachers they have for each grade
- Chair can have a conversation with the Superintendent Anastasia Poulis to advocate for Mr. Taylor in a way that respects privacy
- 2 open positions at the school. Thank you to staff at Bowmore for their flexibility and commitment to our students. Admin has reached out to emergency teachers and are open to receiving recommendations for staff to fill gaps
- Lunchroom supervisor is a paid position that the Admin team can interview for
- 170 Grade 8 students completed their core selection for grade 9
- All Boards follow Memorandum 128 (personal mobile devices) - grades 7 and 8 are allowed cell phones during lunch only.

9. Final questions or comments

- Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2025