

# Brian Public School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday January 17, 2017 @ 7:00pm

## In attendance:

Mario Velloci  
Susan Walker  
Nelle Marie Hyde  
Pauline Palmer  
Bianca O'Brien  
Paul Farrell

Andrea Maksay  
Tom Cutz  
Christina Huang  
Benny Xie  
Venessa Kerman

## Minutes:

### 1. Call to Order

- A regular meeting of the Brian Public School Council was held at Brian PS Library at 7:05 pm on Tuesday Jan 17, 2017
- Nelle Marie Hyde - Council Chair residing

### 2. Welcome and Introductions

- Nelle welcomed all attendees
- Introductions of council members and parents

### 3. Approval of the Nov 30, 2016 meeting minutes:

- Christina motioned to approve minutes
- All in favour. Motion passed.

### 4. Chair's Report:

- **Constitution amendments:**
  - Don't have the necessary non council members (need two and only have one present)
- **Inner City angels - Cecilia Castelucci presents:**
  - School wide project
    - Paper project for the JK – grade 3 classes
    - Grades 4-6 will be doing a wire sculpture
      - This may be challenging as its new medium (use coat hangers)
      - Will start with the grade 6's and work down to grade 4's (provided that it this works)
  - Teach techniques to get the art project done
  - Each child will make their own...do two - one to stay at the school and one to go home
  - Challenge (for wire project)...need tools to do the wire work
    - Wire cutters, pliers, wire bender etc....notice to go out to parents with a list of the required tools (need to be labelled with your name and they will be returned)
  - First date Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, subsequent date(s) to be set up

- Same artist will do both paper and wire project and he speaks both French and English
- 22 or 24 gauge wire can be used in place of coat hangers if the hangers prove to be too difficult (parents can bring that in if they have some)
- Can also do a tool drive (donate them for Paul (artist) to use with other schools)
- **Ken Lister Ward Forum:**
  - Mon Feb 27 @ 6:30pm Greenland PS
  - Monday March 20 @ 6:30pm at Muirhead PS
- **Clydesdale Clubhouse working group:**
  - Looking for input to access and community need for space in the neighbourhood
  - In addition to building, there is a sun shelter built just outside
  - Looking for a volunteer from the School council (as invitation has been extended to Brian PS School Council) so that there is input as to the potential uses for the space
  - Aretha going...some interest from other parents (who will be here next year (or longer))
  - Meeting Thursday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>; 6:00 – 7:30pm Pleasantview Library
- **Ministry of Education – Early Years and childcare strategy**
  - Is promoting well-being in the Ontario education system
  - Short online survey to get input
  - Facilitation kits have been prepared and (proposed) parents can get together to discuss
    - Aretha thinking of doing one of these for Ward 17
    - Consultation ends March 19
- **Other:**
  - Proposal for the city to cut funds to daycares that are hosted in the schools
  - Has not been voted on yet
    - For more information, look at Ken Listers website or the PIAC newsletter
  - The proposal is to cut the funds the TDSB gets for (the subsidy) rent of the daycare space
  - This would likely result in increased childcare fees for parents of children in the daycares

## 5. Principal's Report:

### School Improvement Plan:



BRIAN SIP  
2016-2017.docx

- **Learning:**
  - Differentiation – teaching in a variety of ways (e.g. open ended tasks to students) and accessing them in a variety of different ways
  - Exposing children to different ways of teaching and learning

- Learning coach coming to Brian PS on Feb 10 to work with all teachers to ensure that all have the same base knowledge of differentiation
  - Institute of Child Studies features an inquiry-based learning approach: Principal Farrell wants to bring some of the teachers to the institute to expose them to this inquiry based learning methodology
  - Michelle Annis (JK Teacher) is using inquiry based learning, some of what she is doing:
    - Starting where kids are at and focusing on what they're interested in
    - Helping them think through a problem to find a solution
    - Letting student interest guide where the lesson goes
      - This approach can also be provoked by the teacher, for example, ask the child, what do you want to learn about??
  - Have to look at each individual student - need to find a way to engage all children or find something that may interest a particular child
  - Need to challenge all the students (even those that are doing well)
  - Proposal to have a meeting specific to present / discuss inquiry based learning
    - Interest shown that this might be possible
- **Mindfulness:**
    - Awareness of what's going on in you and around you
    - MindUP program (see SIP attachment)
    - Deal with the mind and the body (20 min of daily activity)
    - One to two period with drama or dance but on the one or two days a week where no phys ed or drama / dance will do this 20 min activity (Phys. Ed teacher been working with other teachers to help with stuff they can do)
  - **Achievement:**
    - Focus has changed from the students will this or that to...the teachers will or the school will
    - Benny thinks Improvement very valuable and will translate it to Chinese and have some of it put on the school website
  - **Grade 6 graduation trip:**
    - School trip was closed down one week before the trip as bedbugs had been discovered at the venue
    - The issue is being dealt with and facility will re-open shortly
    - Trip has been re-booked to the week before Good Friday
    - Vice Principal Pelletier will still be going
  - **Change in grades in Brian PS:**
    - Brian PS changing to JK to Grade 5 for the 2017-2018 school year
    - Currently outdoor school trips (education) happen in Grade 2 & Grade 5 (go to Forest Valley)
    - There will not be an overnight school trip for the grade 5 kids
    - Instead school proposing:
      - Day trip such as Tree Top Trekking
      - Special dinner
        - Superintendent indicated that as long as parents approve, there should be no issues with this activity

- **Eco Club:**
  - We are partnered with some staff and students from Sir John A Macdonald. The students from their Eco Schools club are leading our Eco Schools club (coming about once every three weeks. They have set the goals with the students and are now working on carrying out those goals.
  - Lead the groups (waste reduction, energy reduction etc.)
  - Brian Eco School Club Leaders can be from grade 3 and up

## 6. Committee Reports:

### Chocolate Sales (Feb 21 – March 6)

- After sampling the various types of chocolates, the council decided to proceed with Laura Secord
- Thoughts are that Laura Secord will have better sales as it's a recognized brand
- Chocolate is \$3 / bar
- Each kid / family sent home with a case which contains a mixture of chocolate bars/boxes
- All chocolates made in a nut free facility
- Chocolate sales payments can be on line as well
- But need to be able to accommodate cash and cheques as well as on line payments
- Mario will assist Nelle with the chocolate sales

### Social Committee:

- Planning a games night for all Brian PS families
- Go with two hours.....just for fun
- Initial offering was to have coffee / hot chocolate and Peak Freans peanut free cookies
  - Thinking now maybe selling pizza for \$1 / slice and maybe popcorn \$1 / bag
- Budget for this proposed at \$200
  - Mario motioned to approve budget.....all in favour.
  - Motion passed

### Grad Committee

- Mario and Aretha planning a joint meeting on February 6, 2017 to plan fundraising efforts
- Aretha has booked Breakout Studios for Grade 6 grad party
- Mario (Grade 5's) to discuss ideas with his committee, current idea is to plan a fun day Parkway Forest CC.

### Other:

- **Pizza Lunches:**
  - Judith has had to resign from Pizza lunches due to personal commitments
  - Bianca and Nelle will step in and oversee the pizza lunch requests
    - Last prepaid pizza lunch is end of January
  - With Judith gone, will be downgrading from 2 lunches per month to just one

- Need volunteers to cover off some of the pizza lunches as neither can manage all of them
  - Friday February 24<sup>th</sup> – Nelle
  - Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Benny
  - Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> - Bianca
  - Friday May 28<sup>th</sup> - Venessa
  - Friday June 16<sup>th</sup> - Aretha / Christina
- Moving forward, pizza lunch requests will be done on line (encouraging parents to order this way) as it avoids all the money & cheque collection / count
- An information evening is being held on understanding today's math and how you can help your children - presented by Trevor Brown
  - Details: Wed Feb 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00pm in the Brian PS library
- Brian PS Chinese Culture Exhibition and Community Party 2017 (see attached for full details)



Brian PS Chinese  
New Year Exhibition a

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm**

***Next meeting: Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017***

*See past meeting minutes and other school updates:*

<http://brianpsparentcouncil.webs.com>

*Minutes taken by Venessa Kerman*