

Brian Public School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes – Thursday Oct 13, 2016 @ 7:00pm

In attendance:

Venessa Kerman
Nelle Hyde
Benny Xie
Michael Wang
Shilaja Miranda
Christina Huang
Olivia Kinyana
Judith Roth

Bob Pelletier
Paul Farrell
Svetlana Ledusic
Bianca O'Brien
Nancy Simich
Pauline Palmer
Tom Cutz

Minutes:

1. Call to Order:

- A regular meeting of the Brian Public School Council was held at Brian PS Library at 7:10 pm on Thursday Oct 13, 2016, Nelle Hyde - Council Chair residing

2. Welcome and Introductions:

- Nelle welcomed all attendees
- Other:
 - o Nelle advised no voting on items today as we don't have quorum

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda:

- Addition to the agenda – new French Immersion registration dates

4. Approval of the June 16, 2016 meeting minutes:

- Nelle motioned for approval of the minutes
- Andrea seconded
- All were in favour, motion passed

5. Business Arising:

- French immersion deadline is at the end of November
 - o Website still has last year info
 - o Being updated as we speak
 - o Details to be included in the Buzz
 - o Information will be located in the top right hand side of the landing page (website)
- Andrea Marsh has had to step down from the Social Rep position due to personal reasons

- o Social Rep is responsible for overseeing two 'not for profit' social events over the school year
 - o Christine Huang and Shilaja Miranda have volunteered to share the Social Rep position
 - o With this appointment, we now have quorum for this meeting
- Item of note:
 - o Anne Lee – New Principal of Don Valley middle school - has been invited to speak at our next meeting (Nov 30th) to answer questions, address concerns (etc.) of parents given the transition of grade 6 out of Brian and into Don Valley

6. Chair's Report:

- **Brian PS School Council constitution changes:**

BSC Constitution
Changes.pptx

- o We cannot vote on this as we don't have 80% quorum
 - There is a different quorum required for changes to the School Council constitution
 - o Vote being deferred till next meeting
- **Ward 17 Forums with Ken Lister**
 - o TuesdayWar November 15, 2016
 - 7-9pm
 - Lescon Public School
 - Topic: Engaging Parents in Your School Council
 - *Election of PIAC rep and Alternate & FSLAC rep*
 - Guest Speaker Trixie Doyle, PIAC rep
 - o Tuesday January 17, 2017
 - 7-9pm
 - Forest Manor Public School
 - Is the International Bacalaureate Program Right for Your Child?
 - Guest Speaker Manon Gardner, Executive Superintendent Teaching and Learning
 - **PART (Parent area review team)**
 - o New PART in progress.....York Mills cluster of schools
 - o Looking to add Gr 9 to York Mills Collegiate
 - o Impact to us is that our kids wouldn't have to have that one year at Windfields before heading to York Mills Collegiate
 - It removes a transition and streamlines their pathway from middle school
 - o Also looking to move grade 6 out of the lower elementary schools among other changes in the York Mills cluster
 - o Two meetings to be held at York Mills Collegiate
 - Monday Oct 17th

- Thursday Oct 20th (repeat of Monday's content)

7. Principal's Report:

- New full time office admin replacing Diana Blackburn - Sandy Lui
 - To start the following Monday (Oct 17th)
- Prologue performance today at the school....Sultan's of String
 - Performance was well done and the children enjoyed it
 - Another one coming in January 2017
- Air Conditioning
 - The only place that we can put it in the school is the library / science lab
 - Cost will be about \$3000

Committee Reports:

Fundraising:

- Two major fundraising activities this year
 - Pizza
 - Chocolate sales
- Thus no Fun Fair this year
- Chocolate sales will probably be in February (2017)
- Will need 2 to 3 parents each morning for counting
- Parent donations will also add to the funds coming in (haven't been counted yet)

Pizza Lunch:

- Two per month
- Light on volunteers...can we use Grade 6's?
- Paul preference is to use parents....even grandparents
- Volunteer turn out good in the beginning but it tapers off as the year progresses and December tends to be very light
- Oct 18 will be money counting for pizza lunch if anyone wants to volunteer to help
- Benny / Judith and Bianca to meet in the office at drop off to do that money counting

Budget (Proposed Spending)

- Starting the school year with \$12000 - though some of this has already been allocated (programs, fun fair and other items)
- What is available but not yet allocated is about \$6000

Reoccurring Expenses (Annual)

- Babysitting (meetings / presentations) - \$300
- Cake and decorations for Gr 6 graduating ceremony - \$500 (though usually allot \$300, allocating more this year as it's likely it'll be the Gr 5 & Gr 6 together)
- Scientists in the School - \$1000
- Other annual reoccurring items are (approx.) \$1800
- **2016 / 2017 Brian PS School Council Budget:**

Technology Wish list:

- 5 iPads
- 10 Chromebooks (dirt cheap laptops) good for junior grades
- 1 more of the interactive smart boards for the kindergartens (FI)
- Refresh of the machines in the science lab (two or three)
- Currently have allocated of \$5000 though that could be increased
- Bob reached out to teachers to see how that technology is used.
- Got pages and pages of responses.
- Teachers very grateful....but kids very responsive too
- Estimate of projected funds for technology is conservative

Budget Vote

- This is an estimate in order for us to move ahead
- Don't want to invest too much funding in permanent technology in the portables in case we lose them
- Nelle motioned to approve the budget (as presented)
 - Andrea seconded
 - All in favour

PRO grant (parent reaching out grant) - \$1000

- It's based on the need for financial literacy in math
- It's to aid parents and promote parent engagement
- Allocated PRO money to "Welcome to Kindergarten" package
 - In addition, there is a information session for parents to let them know what kindergarten is all about
- Andrea raised the fact that money for Kindergarten had already been allocated from School council budget....so based on that could the PRO grant be allocated elsewhere? Something that hits more than a small subset of parents (63)
- Ask of Paul if there if there is some sort of Math aid
 - Paul indicated something about math literacy
 - To be investigated further and will advise

CPF

- Christina looking to find an evening that she can do a talk on how to help your children with French homework
 - Proposed timing 7-8:30pm during a week night
- Paul ask to have Pauline email some dates and cc Christina so that a date can be landed on
- CPF office, thinking of doing some sessions for French enrichment after school
- To have three events:
 1. Drama focused
 2. Homework help
 3. Movie night

Brian PS Chinese parents group - Run by Benny Xie

- There are approx. 70 parents from Brain PS already
- Utilize the group as a platform for better communication between the parents and the school/school board
- Use as a vehicle to pass more information to the Chinese community within Brian and provide feedback from parents back to the school
- To date, have already organized a few activities/trips/parties including:
 - Sky Zone Trampoline Park on July
 - Mount Tremblant Trip on September
 - Sault Ste Marie trip on October
 - Northern Light watching on October
 - Brain PS Halloween Party on October
 - Ski trip on Christmas holiday (upcoming)
 - Considering another ski trip over the March break
 - Chinese New Year Party (2017) – planning is currently underway
- Goals:
 - To enrich the students after school life
 - Promote the relationships among the students and parents within the Brian community
 - Would like to combine additional activities with the school's plan to create additional more opportunities for more students at Brain PS
- Mailbox at the front door (If possible) where questions from parents or concerns can be put
 - Hand written note that can be left and then communicate to School council
- Translation....important as many Chinese parents may not be fluent in English
- Get translation and have them handed out

Eco School

- No updates at this time

Safe Schools

- No updates at this time

Social Committee

- No updates at this time

8. Other:

- If there is money left over, some items for consideration (above what we've already discussed)
 - Paul / Bob –get a wish list from teachers
 - Bilingual coding program....Susan looking into it
 - As per Bob, would have to go to a training session in order to bring it in to the school
 - Social justice
 - Ducks unlimited (this involves a school trip)
 - Some funds for the Eco school
 - Consider funding school field trips or busing

- o Brian PS t-shirts for the new JK kids
Sports equipment?? Reach out to Gym teacher (might be a wish list item)
- o Classroom spending

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm

Next meeting: Wednesday November 30th, 2016

See past meeting minutes and other school updates:
<http://brianparentcouncil.webs.com>

Minutes taken by Venessa Kerman