

**BROCK SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, November 5, 2018**

6:00 p.m.  
Staff Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Present:**

Yasmin Buhariwalla (Principal), **YB** • Yasmin.Buhariwalla@tdsb.on.ca

Anthony Crifo (Teacher Rep), **AC** • Anthony.Crifo@tdsb.on.ca

Cecile Farnum, **CF** • cecile.farnum@gmail.com

Muzafar Malik, **MM** • muzafarmalik@gmail.com

Tyler Clark Burke, **TCB** • tylerclarkburke@gmail.com

Michelle Richea, **MR** • michellerichea@hotmail.com

Jessica Abraham, **JA** • jessxabraham@gmail.com

Jessica Shepherd, **JS** • [shepherd.jessica@gmail.com](mailto:shepherd.jessica@gmail.com)

Sarah Perry, **SP** • sarahperry2329@gmail.com

Rebecca Houston, **RH** • rebeccajanehouston@gmail.com

Lindsay Brown, **LB** • linds.miyo@gmail.com

Matt Davies, **MD** • emailmattdavies@gmail.com

Anne Pathammavong Dickson, **AD** • [pathammavong@gmail.com](mailto:pathammavong@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Amerongen, **EA** • eliamerongen@gmail.com

Sarah Fischer, **SF** (Teacher)

Minutes: Tyler Clark Burke

**A G E N D A with Minutes**

Item	Information/Action	Responsibility/ Communicate with
1. AOB – carryover from last meeting includes air conditioning in the schools	Discussion of various options for A/C, including looking at models adopted by other schools.  General ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approach TDSB to learn more. There is a TDSB</li></ul>	TCB & CF to continue discussion with Yasmin Buhariwalla regarding air conditioning  CF to invite new trustee

	<p>cold weather policy. Is there a hot weather policy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an activist approach to solve the A/C issue at our school</li> <li>• Talk to the new trustee (<b>Stephanie Donaldson</b>)</li> <li>• Mobilize parents, send letters to TDSB</li> <li>• Social media campaign (involve other schools).</li> <li>• Approach engineering schools for solutions that work with our infrastructure (and share this information with other schools)</li> <li>• Bring in portable A/C units (donated by parents)</li> <li>• Establish guidelines for parents (re: heat)</li> <li>• Consider cooling hottest rooms first (south-facing, higher floors)</li> <li>• Consider STEM projects/experiments to reduce heat in classrooms</li> <li>• Look into fans</li> <li>• Consider fundraising for A/C at Brock, as well as possibly adopting another school (and fundraising or solving their A/C issues also)</li> <li>• Look into adding more cooling rooms</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stephanie Donaldson</b> to our next meeting.</p>
<p>2. Update from the Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes from the Ward forum</li> <li>• Working with the Committees</li> <li>• Use of parent engagement funds</li> </ul>	<p><b>NOTES FROM THE WARD FORUM:</b></p> <p>Cecile and JS attended Ward 9 forum. Met new trustee Stephanie Donaldson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfront school will soon be in our ward with redrawn boundaries. 28 schools in our ward now.</li> <li>• New superintendent <b>Mike Gallagher</b>.</li> <li>• Presentation on <b>School Council Basics</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggestions included posting agendas in advance.</li> <li>○ Bring people in virtually via conference call.</li> <li>○ Aligning fundraising initiatives with school's priorities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Permits</b> have now been waived for school council meetings and business. Please note childcare offered at Parent Council meetings on.</li> <li>• Conference coming up. <b>Parent Involvement Advisory Committee: PIAC</b>. Link: <a href="http://www.torontopiac.com/2018-parent-involvement-conference.html">http://www.torontopiac.com/2018-parent-involvement-conference.html</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Workshops on Technology, TDSB Academic Programs, Mental Health, Nutrition, School Councils 101, and more.</li> <li>○ Anyone can attend the conference—</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>CF to invite Community Engagement Officer <b>Michelle Munroe</b> to a future meeting.</p> <p>Contact <b>Yasmin</b> to book staff room for committee meetings (permits no longer necessary for council meetings).</p>

	<p>parents, teachers, or members of council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Breakfast, light lunch and childcare included! Location: Earl Haig.</li> <li>● <b>Susanna Siu</b> provided an update from Business Development. She mentioned she can often connect donors to fundraising initiatives, so get in touch with her when fundraising for a specific cause.</li> <li>● <b>School Cash Online</b> can be used for donating money to the school at any time (either generally or earmarked for a specific initiative), and you can create a page from your <b>School Cash Online</b> account to share with friends and family. School Cash Online website:  <a href="https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Home/SignIn">https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Home/SignIn</a></li> <li>● <b>Vendor update!</b> The TDSB vendor manager can easily add a vendor as long as the new vendor meets criteria. We can add more local professional options to catering, events, party suppliers (etc.), if we want to support someone in the community.</li> <li>● Community Engagement Officer <b>Michelle Munroe</b> can help teach fundamentals of a healthy parent council, and how to reach out the whole school community.</li> </ul> <p><b>WORKING WITH THE COMMITTEES:</b></p> <p>General update: CF and JS will make themselves available as individual point people for the various sub-committees of parent council.</p> <p><b>USE OF PARENT ENGAGEMENT FUNDS:</b></p> <p>Brock receives \$500-\$1000 from the board to help with parent engagement (depending on the school size).</p> <p>Ideas for engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fund a particular workshop on a meaningful topic for our community of parents.</li> <li>● Coffee and chat night with the principal once a month.</li> <li>● Use funds for extra insurance to allow for various extra-curricular activities (possibly a school</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cecile</b> to share fundraising plan with Susanna Siu to get any advice or suggestions</p> <p>Reminder to post School Cash Online website on Facebook periodically:  <a href="https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Home/SignIn">https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Home/SignIn</a></p> <p><b>Cecile</b> and <b>Jessica</b> to reach out to committees as their point person</p>
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	<p>dance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ask TDSB Engagement Officer Michelle Munroe how to engage people and apply funds accordingly</li> <li>● Encourage council to talk to other parents at events to encourage, plant seeds for future engagement.</li> <li>● Gap picking up between JK/SK and Grade 1 (25 minutes). Could we plan something during this period? Timbits and coffee?</li> <li>● RH mentioned Welcome Back BBQ at Dewson had high engagement, which is paired with curriculum night.</li> <li>● MD mentioned that it's not always easy for teachers to mingle before curriculum night (re: Welcome Back BBQ).</li> </ul> <p><b>Consensus reached to use funds for coffee and chat events scheduled in the morning and afternoon throughout the year.</b></p>	<p><b>Cecile and Jessica</b> to meet with Yasmin to discuss coordinating coffee and chat with Principal events</p>
3. Committee Updates	<p><b>Teacher appreciation Committee Update:</b></p> <p>MR would like to feed teachers on report card night. High engagement last year from both parents and teachers. Mealtrain app really helped organize. Menu considerations: gluten-free, some shellfish allergies, vegan options. Parents pick up containers on Monday. Food that was easy to eat with a napkin more desirable (over lasagna). Grab-and-go.</p> <p><b>Arts Committee:</b></p> <p>Discussion of ukulele school. \$6 or \$8 per lesson (ukulele not included). A specific type of ukulele is required by instructor <b>Melanie Doane</b>. Arts Committee will see if our school ukuleles work with the program's requirements. Starts in grade 4. Need parent volunteers. Website: <a href="http://uschool.ca/">http://uschool.ca/</a></p> <p>Dance for Unity discussed. Great school program. Arts Committee will explore further.</p>	<p>Committee to send out digital sign-up for potluck</p> <p><b>Arts Committee</b> to determine if we can get arts grants for ukulele school or Dance for Unity.</p>

	<p><b>Fundraising Committee:</b></p> <p>Summary of three major council fundraisers 2018/2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Move-a-Thon</li> <li>● Silent Auction</li> <li>● Spring Fling Pop-up Market</li> </ul> <p>Discussion to connect fundraising with school priorities. Example: Rooftop garden fundraiser paired with the Fresh from the Farm program (work with farmers directly in the fall, and receive veggies at harvest). Website: <a href="https://freshfromthefarm.ca/">https://freshfromthefarm.ca/</a></p> <p>How many events should we have per year? Consensus: 3 to 4 events per year (not including small fundraisers like bake sales, etc). Also discussed: Fundraisers not just about raising money; they should also be community-building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue with Move-a-thon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Try to leverage School Cash Online so there are not so many envelopes of money (but make them available also).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion of the winter concert and the Brock Silent Auction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In the past, these two events have been linked, but this year the concert will be spread out over two days (kindergarteners on Friday morning).</li> <li>● Other parents (in the past) have found the auction hard to navigate at the concert (busy, rush, trying to get seats).</li> <li>● This year, Silent Auction will also be available online. Longer bidding period, allow parents to donate online, and raise the profile of local businesses (with links to their websites).</li> <li>● Will also create a space to bid in person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Possibility of display case on the third floor</li> <li>○ Presentation during concert (parents on stage with baskets)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b> Have a raffle and tickets at the winter concert for other items so we still have a small component of the past event at this year's concert.</p> <p><b>Discussion of Spring Fling type Craft Fair or Pop-up</b></p>	<p>Fundraising:</p> <p><b>Silent Auction</b> (look into different software and set-up an in-person viewing)</p> <p><b>Move-a-Thon</b>— Need date from YB.</p> <p><b>Spring Fling Pop-up Market</b>— Need to engage parent community regarding table interests (and investigate permits, electrical needs, etc).</p>
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	<p><b>market.</b> Parents can book tables and sell wares, art, share services (face-painting). Include a clothing swap and/or spring clean (garage sale) theme. <b>The event is a fundraiser but also designed to celebrate the diversity and talents of our parent community.</b></p>	
4. School Update from the Principal	<p><b>Indigo Adopt-a-School</b> fundraiser, led by Ms. Kondo and parent Jen Barratt, was a HUGE success. Brock made \$13000 from donations and Indigo donation-matching partnership.</p> <p><b>Student/Parent census:</b> Emotional anxiety was revealed as a priority concern among students at Brock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In response, Brock is introducing a daily meditation for 5-7 minutes.</li> <li>• Council suggests Toronto Centre for Mindfulness or SickKids could potentially help guide staff with this initiative.</li> <li>• Also introducing a Well-Being Day to allow “kids to be kids” one day a month. Focus on play and relaxation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Student Achievement focus is math:</b> How can we build math fluency with our kids. Don’t teach math lessons in isolation, build continuity.</p> <p><b>Equity:</b> How do we have conversations to support our under-served students? Identify our own biases? On Wednesday (Nov. 7), teachers attending a full-day workshop. A learning coach will help build lesson plans around equity. Teachers will return for a group meeting to discuss results of equity-based lesson plan.</p> <p><b>Equity and Well-Being Committee:</b> Ms. Moreira has invited all kids to enjoy the G.L.O.W. (Gay Lesbian or Whatever) Club. Kids have registered online to attend a one-day conference: <a href="http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/Gender-Based-Violence-Prevention/EnVision-Conference/">http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/Gender-Based-Violence-Prevention/EnVision-Conference/</a></p> <p><b>Chess Club coming to Brock!</b> Parents encouraged to donate chess boards.</p>	<p>.</p> <p>Ask parent community to donate chess boards needed for the chess club. <b>Cecile</b> to check with Yasmin as to when to ask parents for this.</p>

	<p><b>International Languages Update:</b></p> <p><b>By the numbers:</b></p> <p>1/3 of Brock parent replied to the survey (97 parents)</p> <p>52 out of the 97 said not satisfied with the International Languages program at Brock</p> <p>21 said somewhat satisfied with the International Languages program at Brock</p> <p>12 said satisfied with the International Languages program at Brock</p> <p>4 said very satisfied with the International Languages program at Brock</p> <p>71 parents left comments</p> <p>Overall, parents want more involvement and information on what's being taught. Improved curriculum and better classroom experiences for theirs kids. Parents feel their kids have been attending language classes (in some cases for years) and have a very limited grasp of the language (counting to ten, a handful of words, etc).</p> <p>Staff in Int. Languages committed to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A newsletter is going to be created to share more information.</li> <li>● Making student work more visible. New bulletin board to display work on the second floor</li> </ul> <p>Council responds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Re: bulletin board. Parents not typically allowed on the second floor</li> <li>● Concern kids are not enjoying learning languages and/or about other cultures</li> <li>● Classroom management is better this year</li> <li>● Evaluation for language and teaching competency necessary (of students and teachers)</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b> Very few schools have international languages during the day. Most have after school. Could it be moved to after-school instead of during the day? Should we involve the school trustee?</p>	<p><b>Yasmin, Cecile and Jessica</b> to speak with School Trustee (or best person) to improve International Languages program.</p>
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	<b>Consensus:</b> Best solution to change/improve the languages program vs eliminating.	
Ministry Consultations	<p>Ministry Consultations updated provided by Matt Davies, a Brock parent and teacher.</p> <p>Provincial government consulting with parents on various subjects, including sex-ed curriculum. MD called into one of the town halls (phone-in only). Some parents concerned the town hall format is not representing balanced views.</p> <p>MD encourages all parents to become engaged: <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents">https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents</a></p> <p>Feedback from these consultations will help shape decisions in the following areas (according to the website):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving student performance in <a href="#">Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)</a></li> <li>2. Preparing students with needed job skills, such as <a href="#">skilled trades</a> and coding</li> <li>3. Improving provincial <a href="#">standardized testing</a></li> <li>4. Ensuring students graduate with important life skills, including <a href="#">financial literacy</a></li> <li>5. Managing the use of technology in classrooms, such as cell phones</li> <li>6. Building a new age-appropriate <a href="#">Health and Physical Education curriculum</a> that includes subjects like mental health, sexual health education and the legalization of cannabis</li> <li>7. Developing the first-ever <a href="#">Parents' Bill of Rights</a></li> </ol> <p>Discussion to invite Marit Stiles to a meeting (or to engage her) to voice concerns about Ford's changes to sex-ed curriculum and/or the general town hall format.</p> <p>CF is going to post link on Facebook. MD will create templated answers and share to his Facebook page.</p>	<p>CF to post link to <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents">https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents</a> on Brock Facebook page.</p> <p>Consider engaging politicians (Marit Stiles? Stephanie Donaldson?) on this issue going forward.</p>

School website: [schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/brock](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/brock)

twitter: @tdsb\_brockps