

# BROCK SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** October 1, 2020

**TIME:** 7pm

**LOCATION:** Virtual (Zoom)

**PRESENT:**

| School Council Executive     | Parent School Council Members   | Brock Staff                   | Guests   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Cecile Farnum, Co-Chair      | Moshik Galanty    Muzafar Malik | Yasmin Buhariwalla, Principal | Tracey Fernandes, Toronto<br>Public Health Nurse |
| Jessica Shepherd, Co-Chair   | Sara Hines        Lindsey Ross  | Anthony Crifo, Teacher        |  |
| Moshik Galanty, Co-Chair     | Nadia Surita      Lori Cullen   |                               |  |
| Muzafar Malik, Treasurer     | Moshik Galanty                  |                               |  |
| Tyler Clark Burke, Secretary |                                 |                               |  |

## Parent / Caregiver Attendees:

|                  |                      |                        |                           |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alexander Liszka | Danielle             | Jess Abraham           | Matt                      |
| Amanda           | Deborah Cohen        | Joann                  | Rachel                    |
| Angela Noonan    | Fernanda Yanchapaxi  | Joanna Hazelden        | Ramesh                    |
| Anna Fisher      | Jason Hreno          | Katherine N.           | Sara                      |
| Anne Dickson     | Jeffrey Mutch        | Michael Owen           | Sara Martel               |
| Anne K           | Jegarani Nanthakumar | Michelle D. Winterburn | Tim Newfield              |
| Bob and Asako    | Jenia Faibusovitch   | Michelle Richea        | Weerawong Sangphosuk      |
| Brian Cameron    | Jennifer S           | Olivia                 | Will Baker (minute-taker) |

| Item | Information/Action  | Responsibility/<br>Communicate |
|------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1.   | <b>Meeting Etiquette/Minute Taking (CF/YB)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting Chair (Cecile Farnum, CF) advised the group about meeting etiquette (respect for others) and process for asking questions using Zoom application</li> <li>▪ Minute-taker (Will Baker) asked that anyone seeking to view draft minutes contact him at <a href="mailto:wgbaker@gmail.com">wgbaker@gmail.com</a></li> </ul>  |                                |
| 2.   | <b>List of Old Business / Action Items Arising from September 10 “informal” Parent Meeting with Principal</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Options to improve ventilation (HEPA filters)</li> <li>2. Lunchroom Eating &amp; Lunchtime Supervision</li> <li>3. Presence of Scaffolding</li> <li>4. Alternative spaces for larger classes (e.g., gym or library)</li> <li>5. Outdoor Learning</li> </ol>   |                                |
| 3.   | <b>School Nurse Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Yasmin Buhariwalla (YB) introduced Tracey Fernandes, School Nurse (TF)</li> <li>▪ We can contact her with questions at <a href="mailto:tracey.fernandes@toronto.ca">tracey.fernandes@toronto.ca</a> or send questions via the principal</li> <li>▪ Role is to work with schools on COVID-19 prevention, to make sure everyone is following guidelines (e.g., class sizes, disinfecting, etc.)</li> <li>▪ With respect to testing, if someone tests positive, the investigative team will step in, consider the number / nature of cases, the infection period, and other details, and determine whether the cohort should self-isolate</li> <li>▪ With respect to screening, there are updates (current as of Oct 1)</li> <li>▪ Screening recommendations come from the province, and Public Health also</li> </ul> |                                |

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|      | makes recommendations   |                                |
|      | <p><b>Key Points From Q &amp; A (TPH Nurse's Presentation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus of the school nurse is exclusively on COVID-19 prevention</li> <li>• Nurses are responsible for a group of schools</li> <li>• Nurses are not physically present in schools</li> <li>• If a principal learns of a positive COVID-19 case, direction is to notify TPH directly, and the process of confirmation can take some time. TPH and the school will determine who was exposed to the positive case, whether they take buses, etc., to make sure those who need to know are notified ASAP</li> <li>• Reporting of confirmed COVID cases is collected on a TDSB site (<a href="https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/covid-19-advisories">https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/covid-19-advisories</a>) for TDSB schools, as well as for the province as a whole on the Ministry site (<a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres">https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres</a>).</li> <li>• TPH recommendation is that people with symptoms get tested, but there is no ability to enforce this. Note an updated decision tree from TPH: <a href="https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9858-COVID-19-Decision-Guide-for-Schools.pdf">https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9858-COVID-19-Decision-Guide-for-Schools.pdf</a></li> <li>• The School Nurse will not receive COVID-19 test results</li> <li>• Eating in classrooms is permitted as per TPH guidelines; students eat quietly at their desks</li> </ul> |                                |
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|      | <p><b>Principal's Update (YB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Introduction / Thanks</b></li> <li>▪ Thanks to Tracey Fernandes</li> <li>▪ Thanks to all for your help getting us to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of school, especially students, who are following all the routines, e.g., wearing their masks, physical distancing, hand sanitizing, and staying in their “zones”</li> <li>▪ The field has been divided into zones (three areas - there's also the basketball court, and the south side)</li> <li>▪ Ms. Samuel has put together an outdoor sports kit for each class. Classes take the kit outside, and the equipment is sanitized afterwards and ready to use for the next recess</li> <li>▪ Scaffolding at the school will soon be gone</li> <li>▪ Main basketball area including hoop will have to wait a little longer as some work will continue to occupy that area</li> <li>▪ Rooms 5, 6, 12, 14, 21 and 22 will have their windows replaced. Kindergarten windows will be replaced during the break as it is difficult to relocate a Kg class after the winter break. Classes will be relocated for two weeks to accommodate this work</li> <li>▪ All windows and doors are open at all times</li> <li>▪ Terry Fox Run - event to occur this month. Grade 8's will be leaders, and groups will be separated into field zones. There will be physical activities (e.g., jumping jacks, burpees)</li> <li>▪ Virtual Meet the Teacher event will occur sometime in October and will give parents a chance to see what the rooms look like. The event will have to be timed appropriately to accommodate families with two + kids at the school. Schedule is forthcoming.</li> <li>▪ Water Bottle Refill Stn - there is no refill station; students may use the water fountains to refill</li> </ul> |                                |

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|      | <p><b>Principals' Update Q &amp; A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windows are required to remain open even as temperatures get cooler. Students have access to their coats in the classroom</li> <li>• If overly large classes are created, will look at use of additional spaces (e.g. gym, library); currently not needed</li> </ul>  |                                |
|      | <p><b>List of Old Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Options to improve ventilation (HEPA filters)</b> – current TDSB policy is that they are only necessary when no mechanical ventilation in classrooms. Currently, no fundraising for HEPA filters (CF)</li> <li>• <b>Lunchroom Eating &amp; Lunchtime Supervision</b> - Brock allows students to go home for lunch if parent picks up student. Other students eat in class and follow a routine: handwashing, sitting at the desk quietly and eating.</li> <li>• There are two cohorts in each class, with one outside, and one inside eating lunch – they switch after 30 min.</li> <li>• During lunch, there is an adult in every primary classroom, with lunchroom supervision for the upper grades.</li> <li>• <b>Outdoor Lunch</b> - We are open to looking at the outdoor space for lunch, but there are logistical challenges. There are 9 classes; it's challenging to have them all out in the yard physically distanced. Challenges include sanitizing hands outside, monitoring visits to the washroom, and managing lunch bags.</li> <li>• <b>Presence of Scaffolding</b> – (see Principal's Update)</li> <li>• <b>Alternative spaces for larger classes</b> (e.g., gym or library) – (see Principal's Update Q and A)</li> <li>• <b>Outdoor Learning</b> - Rooftop garden has been turned into a learning space</li> </ul> |                                |

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|      | <p>for senior students. All primary and junior classes use the field, and all teachers take their classes outside at some time or another. The Kindergarten cohort is outside a lot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The field is big enough for three classes at a time during instructional time (this allows teachers to be heard more easily by students, less noise). During the lunch period, more cohorts can be using the field because they are playing vs. instructional time</li> <li>• There are some challenges in outdoor learning, specifically related to background noise</li> <li>• It's possible for teachers to get their classes outside, though it requires positioning oneself strategically on the field. It's possible to read, but owing to noise, students draw closer to the reader, so it's important to make sure they continue physically distancing</li> <li>• Phys ed classes for older students take up a lot of the field, so finding space can be challenging</li> <li>• Drama classes occur outside, but math and languages are difficult because of all the tools needed by staff and students. These can lead to sanitizing issues</li> </ul> |                                |
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>General Q &amp; A, Discussion, General Comments</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Virtual parents not receiving emails from the school</b> – parents are being added back into the School Messenger email application (CF)</li> <li>▪ <b>How many students have moved from in-person to virtual learning?</b> 91</li> <li>▪ <b>Will there be a future reorganization of the classes?</b> Very likely.</li> <li>▪ <b>Why do Gr. 4 and up have less physical education?</b> Grade 4 upwards receive prep through Core French (200 minutes) that leaves one 40 minute prep period, which is Phys Ed</li> </ul>   |                                |

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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Crowding at pick-up/drop-off</b> - Communication needed to parents to help keep the pathway clear during pick-ups/drop-offs – if situation doesn't improve, will look at use of parking lot as thoroughfare, possibly use parent volunteers. Noted that some parents pick up their kindergarten children, then wait in the yard for older children.</li> <li>▪ <b>Revised mask policies</b> - Parents should review revised mask policies (i.e., parents / caregivers to wear masks outdoors on school property)</li> <li>▪ .</li> <li>▪ <b>What's at the principal's discretion?</b> Lunchtime, reorganization of classrooms</li> </ul>        |                                |
|      | <p><b>Co-Chair's update (CF)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TDSB policies re: HEPA filters</b> – see Principal's update. School Councils are not currently allowed to fundraise for HEPA filters due to concerns around equity</li> <li>• <b>Fundraising</b> - on pause until Nov 1, but donations to the TDSB for COVID-19 related items can be sent through School Cash Online:<br/><a href="https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Fundraising/Donations">https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Fundraising/Donations</a></li> <li>• <b>School Council Elections</b> – information forthcoming, including nomination forms.</li> </ul> |                                |
|      | <p><b>Q &amp; A/Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Can parents donate tents?</b> No tents can be donated, but a small item, e.g. playdough, yes. Please ask teachers what they need for their classrooms.</li> </ul>  |                                |

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|      | <p>Comment that voluntarism is not the answer to the problem of chronic underfunding of public education. Instead people should pressure government to deliver desired programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ With respect to the issue of outdoor learning in particular, comment that the TDSB has done a poor job of communicating what is allowed or supported. TDSB has been too “hands-off,” which has created confusion in some school communities. If you want to add your voice to the growing chorus of complaints on this issue, contact your trustee, Stephanie Donaldson (<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Donaldson@tdsb.on.ca">Stephanie.Donaldson@tdsb.on.ca</a>) (CF)</li> <li>▪ Noted that because there are no tree stumps, yoga maps, etc., this does not mean outdoor learning is not happening.</li> <li>▪ <b>Can we donate to a disadvantaged sister school?</b> Can be difficult to identify these schools, want to avoid stigma. Donate to the COVID-19 fund as an alternative.</li> </ul> |  |
|      | <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication to Brock community about overcrowding in the path, gateway, parking lot</li> <li>▪ Use of parking lot to ease congestion</li> <li>▪ Follow-up with teachers to see what items parents can donate</li> <li>▪ School Council Elections</li> </ul>   | <p>Principal to send out reminder</p> <p>Under consideration</p> <p>Parents</p> <p>Chair/Principal</p> |