



Blossom Park Public School
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OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**Blossom Park School Council Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2019**

In Attendance:

Susan Fattal (Co-Chair), Ashleigh Calberry (Treasurer/Secretary), Colin Halsall (Vice Principal), Susan Al-Riffai (MLO)

Review of Minutes from November 20, 2019. Approval of the minutes was moved by Ashleigh Calberry and seconded by Susan Fattal. Approved.

Co-Chair's Report:

- parents of students in K-6 asked to complete OCDSB Valuing Voices survey
 - demographic questions, safety, well-being, etc.
 - looking for trends: achievement gaps, belonging, suspension and expulsion rates
 - grade 7-8 students will complete in January
- distribution of pizza forms and collection of money update
 - Teachers currently on work-to-rule not distributing forms or collecting money/forms, so Susan distributed pizza orders to classrooms
 - Students came to office individually to drop off forms and orders into a basket (K classes had basket in classrooms)
- FundScrip update
 - contacted them and created group: Blossom Park School Council 2019-2020
 - due to our school's demographics, we'd like to adapt the paper forms, then would have to manually enter the data online individually
 - one group order, everything will come at once to be distributed
 - because of work-to-rule, this isn't going to work right now (distributing/collecting forms)
 - open end date for our campaign, we can choose one end date or continue it (twice per year), depending on how well it goes
- School Council website update
 - Caroline has contacted OCDSB, and Susan has access to our section of the school website now
 - would like to include links to resources that might be useful to parents, especially with Arabic translations - looking for input and ideas of what to include
 - would like other ideas of what to post (fundraising, events, achievements we're doing, etc.)
 - new school council email address: sc-blossomparkps@ocdsb.ca
 - agendas, minutes, announcements will all be available there
 - link to facebook page - maybe a closed group instead? (no students, just adults; discussion rather than complaints)

Principal's Report:

- BIP reset going really well with the new teacher in the unit, students happy
- job action:
 - all field trips already planned are still going ahead; no new field trips being planned at this time
 - collecting money is through the office
- ESL tracking (STEP) process has begun for our grade 1s to assess their English abilities and help them move towards grade level as they progress through school
- high school information and registration happening now - students and parents are self-selecting which high school to attend
 - Susan F: recommended that students and parents are better informed about whether to register for academic/applied levels
 - Susan A: Ridgemont guidance counsellors came to school last year but the parent attendance was low
 - Colin: guidance counsellors have been coming and meeting with the students to help make choices; if the student isn't sure which pathway, speak with the grade 8 teacher about individual strengths and abilities for best courses to take
 - Colin will speak with intermediate team and see about the process of transitioning students to grade 9 to make sure students are on the right pathway, taking the right courses
- presenters coming in to talk about online safety (Colin has spoken to 3 classes struggling with online interactions - gr 6 and 7s), want to set them up well for high school
 - 3 groups coming in to work with grades 6, 7, 8
 - Ignition: Digital Wellness and Safety
 - link: <http://socialnetworkingsafety.net/>
- digital wellness, how to stay calm with OPS came through to mentor students struggling with behaviour and students who aren't, so they can work together
- have had authors have visit school and science workshops (for both boys and girls)

Teacher Representative's Report:

- Teacher representative is not attending due to work-to-rule strike action.
- Ashleigh noted that it's very important to include other education workers in discussions about "teachers" - EAs, ECEs, custodial staff, office staff, etc. are all essential to running the school. Very important to keep them in mind when discussing the "teacher strike," as the media references.

Treasurer's Report:

- The bank account has \$5562.46 currently. We've just written a cheque to the school to balance the books for Sept.-Dec., so we now have \$4238.65.
- \$500 is the PIP Funding from OCDSB, so it needs to be reserved for whatever we decide to spend it on.

Other Business:

- discussion about \$500 PIP grant from OCDSB: 3 main options presented by Susan
 - parenting seminar/workshop (Family Services Ottawa)
 - translators not provided
 - size of room defines size of workshop
 - format determined by number of attendees - more interactive with fewer people
 - estimated cost \$640 for a 2-hour workshop; two hours allows enough depth for the topic, and questions with parents
 - registration to determine numbers (free, or nominal fee?)
 - topics can be directed to groups we're targeting for the workshop/seminar
 - positive discipline strategies (modeling, choices, distraction, routines, setting limits, etc.)

- beyond time outs
 - anger management for parents
 - anger answers for kids (further discussion later about this topic being relevant for our school, maybe tie-in with anger management for parents)
 - building children's self-esteem
 - supporting anxious children
 - skills for life
- family fun math night (Jump2Math)
 - transform gym into game space with 10-20 math stations
 - 60-120 minutes, \$849 + HST
 - K-6 students and parents
 - need intermediates to help - 10-30 volunteers get 30 minutes of training before activities
 - come to Ottawa area April 20-24, need to book ASAP to lock down a date
- Mad Science of Ottawa
 - 45-minute shows for ages 3-12
 - \$359.50 + HST for up to 125 children
 - 30-minute version for preschool, \$249.50+HST for up to 80 children
 - rebates available for multiple shows on same day
 - total \$830.54 for 2 workshops, including transportation for animator
- Susan A will look into translators
- will need to look into ways to look after kids, if parents are attending a workshop (high school students earning volunteer hours?)
- any other ideas for spending PIP funding, let Susan know
- School Council risk management and insurance policies
 - OCDSB pays for liability insurance - protection for school council members and volunteers doing sanctioned events
 - sanctioned events (covered by liability of insurance)
 - approved by principal, vice principal or designate, directing and supervising event
 - school council members are volunteers acting on behalf of school
 - non-sanctioned events (not covered by liability insurance)
 - approved by principal but independent of school
 - principal and staff not directing or attending as supervisors
 - fundraisers held at school, e.g. movie nights, book fairs, bake sales
 - third-party events:
 - approved by principal, supervised by principal or designate
 - school council members are volunteers
 - third-party events with contracts with independent businesses (e.g. fun fairs, BBQs where food is provided from outside source, events with inflatables)
 - third-party providers must provide proof of Commercial General Liability Insurance
 - these policies change frequently, so be sure to consult with Caroline and Colin when planning
- possible Amazon fundraiser
 - Naoko's husband is invited to join us (Canterbury HS council) to give more information
- future annual December craft fair
 - not a big fundraiser if the shoppers are students, need to have a bigger operation with vendors and crafters for the council to earn money, invite public to shop
 - can sell food to raise more money

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 5:00pm