



Blossom Park Public School
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OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Blossom Park School Council Minutes Wednesday, February 19, 2020

In Attendance:

Susan Fattal (Co-Chair), Naoko Nakamura (Co-Chair), Ashleigh Calberry (Treasurer/Secretary), Caroline Thériault (Principal), Colin Halsall (Vice Principal), Shanaz Sabir (Student Council Rep.)

Review of Minutes from December 17, 2019. Approval of the minutes was moved by Susan and seconded by Ashleigh. Approved.

Chair's Report:

- \$500 grant options discussed
 - Susan provided 3 options that we discussed (parenting seminar/workshop, Mad Science of Ottawa, Scientists in School Family Science Night)
 - Scientists in Schools seems to be the winning vote between all parties here, despite being the biggest cost. We can afford it - there was \$450 we reserved in the fall that didn't get spent for trips, plus we have more we've raised
 - tentative dates: week around April 16
- parents participate in 2020-21 School Calendar survey
 - two extra Friday holidays to create long weekend at Family Day and Fri before March break (and extend school year by 2 days) - 60% parents surveyed said no
 - start school on Sept 1 (before labour day)
 - Christmas holiday dates
 - will need to be approved by trustees, ministry
- update on Council web page and email
 - emails since 2014 found in the email account
- Susan spoke to Mme. Shohdy (she spent \$90.18 on art supplies so we will reimburse now)
- update on fundraising
 - January pizza sales down, but back up in February
 - a parent has donated extra money for students who want pizza; Susan sent thank you card
 - FundScrip - paper program won't work for our school right now; online program hard because of minimum order; will close the group and consider other online options instead
- communication with other school councils
 - closed facebook group: Vimy Ridge PS has one (closed, not private; parents verify identity by answering question about their child at school; 5 moderators; list of rules provided)
 - maybe survey parents to see which social media platform(s) they prefer - paper and/or online options

- two days after our council website went public, Sawmill Creek School Council contacted to ask about our multicultural event (potluck); offered for one or both of our chairs to attend their council meeting or meet informally

Principal's Report:

- very quiet in the school since the job action - fewer days of school with strike days, and no extracurriculars
- entering staffing time, so board is looking at enrollment projections for next year; looking about the same as current
- hard to get students older than grade 3 wearing snow pants at school; many wearing jeans and running shoes, no hats and mitts (despite some available at school), etc.
 - Susan will write a note in English and Arabic to remind parents about importance (attached to next pizza order forms); also add tip section on website
- Colin said the website looks amazing, hasn't seen a parent council website that looks this good before
 - has been working with someone at the board to get pictures available on school website - currently links to gallery of photos taken and shared by staff members
 - working on adding daily announcements to school website, which parents can subscribe for live updates if they would like

Treasurer's Report:

- The bank account stands at \$5019.65 as of Feb. 18. Susan also deposited Feb. pizza money today (Feb. 19), which should total \$718.25. Money owing from School Cash Online and owing to school for pizza orders for Jan and Feb (as usual).
- \$500 PIP funding still reserved
- need to consider saving for Fun Fair (traditionally \$1500-2000 investment)

Student Representative's Report:

- no field trips, so they're doing more fun things in class
- Black History Month - lots of learning about important people
- math - including multiplication in the gym!
- "what does the clock say?" song
- diorama - favourite scene from a book
- making slime - related to "matter" in science
- school-wide crazy hair day recently
- MADD presentation
- students would like to paint on Lost and Found
- students would like to create a Grade 8 Wall for grads to sign to leave their mark on the school
- question about report cards, high school registration
 - some high school applications require report cards (students should use prior reports grade 7 and first grade 8 progress report for now)

Other Business:

- how school council can help with Term 1 report cards
 - not distributing marks; progress discussions directly with teachers
 - Caroline spoke with teachers about all students not meeting expectations and asked them to be sure to communicate home; parents can still contact teachers to ask about their child's progress
- School Council strategy regarding using Arabic in communication with parents

- first pizza forms in both English and Arabic, Susan wanted parents to really understand
- website options - English with Google translate, English with link to Arabic for parents, or both languages
- one complaint from a parent (why Arabic, not other languages?)
- not encouraging parents to be less integrated into Canadian society, just want communication to be clear
- all agreed that it's important to keep doing what we're doing, having both languages includes as many people as we're able
- social media presence for School Council (discussed prior) - hope to open more channels to communicate with parents
- new fundraising ideas:
 - online retailers for website
 - FlipGive
 - photographer - family photos in the yard at school, council gets a percent of the sales; will approach company that does school photos, as well as others
- no meeting in March (March break)

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