



Blossom Park Public School
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OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**Blossom Park School Council Minutes
The First Council Meeting of the School Year 2020-2021
Thursday, October 22, 2020**

In Attendance:

Susan Fattal (Co-Chair 2019-2020), Naoko Nakamura (Co-Chair 2019-2020), Ashleigh Calberry (Treasurer/Secretary 2019-2020), Caroline Thériault (Principal), Colin Halsall (Vice Principal), Kirsty Vince (Teachers' Representative), Nejm-Eddine Doukkali, Nabi Habibi, and 8 other parents.

Co-Chair's Opening and Report:

- We will hopefully be able to meet the minimum number of the Council's members this year.
- Our regular School Council meeting takes place once a month and usually lasts 1-1.5hrs long.
- Everyone is welcome to the meeting even if you are not a member of the council.
- Introduction of parents in today's meeting
- What we did last year:
 - Year of change - the chair and treasurer left.
 - Teachers' job action
 - COVID19
 - We did as much as we could as the School Council.
 - Improvement made to the pizza fundraiser and we made good money from it.
 - We financially supported some events such as Love to Groove (a dance program).
 - Web page for School Council - our email address was set up which we can also use for Google Meet.
 - Communicated with Vimy Ridge P.S. and learned about their Facebook setup.
 - Susan and Naoko had a meeting with Sawmill Creek school council reps to exchange information.
 - Due to COVID, activities were limited and we had to cancel:
 1. Science Night - supposed to take place in April, 2020
 2. Fun Fair - scheduled to be held on June 2, 2020
 - School Council participated in the virtual leaving ceremony for G8 students as well.
 - Refunded pizza money to G8 students due to school's closure after March break. We are planning to provide refunds to the rest of the grades this year.

- What we have done this year:
 - → OCDSB asked School Councils to hold an election to vote for the parent members → cancelled due to insufficient number of candidates.
 - We will do the candidate acclamation instead.
 - New fundraiser has been introduced - Oliver's Labels that gives us 20% of profit of sales.

Approval of Agenda

Review of Minutes from February 19, 2020 (The last council meeting for 2019-2020)

Treasurer's Report:

- Opening balance of 2019-2020 school year: \$1,956.72
- Ending balance of 2019-2020 school year: \$6,309.42
- We paid the school \$212.91 in September that was owed from pizza purchases of the previous year (2019-2020).
- Opening balance of 2020-2021 school year: \$6,096.51
- \$500 PIP Funding is still reserved.
- We have no income source this year due to the pandemic and regulations → ask for fundraising ideas.

Elections and OCDSB's expectation:

- School Council to have at least 5 members - we could not meet it in the past years.
- We will keep seeking candidates.
- We have not had any constitution or by-laws - need for making the policy.
- Running an electronic vote - what is the max number of candidates?

Vice Principal's Report on Safety at School:

- Started working on the project in August.
- Physical distancing in every movement in school is the main goal.
- Classroom cohort lines up before entering the building. They distance from one another as much as possible and as few people enter the building each time as possible.
- Pickup/ drop-off location changed.
 - Sixth St is no longer used.
 - Kiss & Ride on Bloomington St → a good routine has been established.
- Email principal or vice principal for any suggestions or feedback regarding Kiss & Ride system.
- Fire drills - the procedures have been updated to physically distancing rules.
- Recess:
 - New procedure has been introduced and is helping students enjoy it in a calmer way.
 - Students are allowed to stay in the same area in each recess: Yard 1, 2, 3, or 4. In the second recess, they can change the yard to play in.

- Half the number of students is at the yard than last year with the same number of staff for supervision.
- Outdoor education
 - Education is also done outside
 - Teachers contributed materials to teach students outside.

Principal's Report:

- 6 weeks have passed since the beginning of the new school year. We have settled into a nice routine and started seeing energy in school.
- In person learning: 295 students - a lot more than expected
- Virtual school learning: 101 students
- Fundraising limitation - Open food at school, such as pizzas, is not allowed.
- Bagged breakfast is provided.
- School is reintroducing the milk program and it will be delivered by one person to classrooms.
- Outdoor education
 - Growing plants and building a garden - posted on twitter.
 - Hands-on learning
- Halloween - students are invited to come to school in costume but no party is allowed in the classroom.
- Report cards and IEP: IEP is going home on Monday of October 26. Progress Report is to be delivered on November 20 by parent portal and paper report.
- Meet the teacher is to be held on Google Meet on next Tue, Wed, and Thu (Oct 27, 28, and 29). The invitation is to be emailed by class teachers.
- Parent-teacher interview to be held virtually as well in November. PD Day is to be used for it.
- Outdoor education in winter months - Waiting for plan / recommendations from OCDSB. The minimum low temperature to keep students indoor is minus 25°C. Parents to ensure children go to school with winter gears to stay warm outside.

Elections:

- Introduction of new council members: Nejm-Eddine Doukkali and Nabi Habibi.
- We have 4 parent council members in today's meeting.
- Chair - Susan Fattal nominated herself and was approved by members.
- Treasurer - Naoko Nakamura nominated herself and was approved by members.
- Secretary – Nejm-Eddine Doukkali nominated himself and was approved by members.

Report from Kirsty Vince (Teachers' Representative):

- Teachers are getting used to new normals.
- It is hard to teach with a mask.
- Keeping students engaged.
- Teachers have made no requests from the School Council yet.

- Expecting a different year but exciting things to happen this year.

School council's goals and objectives for 2020-2021 presented by Susan:

- COVID→ uncertainty, safety first, parents not allowed in the building, no more fundraising, no more in-person meetings → nothing to do this year → a different kind of council.
- Focus on 3 points:
 - a. Keep in mind:
 - Our role
 - Know what we can and cannot do
 - Flexibility
 - b. Focus on:
 - Things that matter
 - Things we can control
 - Support - students, staff, and parents
 - Organization - by-laws, upload paperwork to google drive to make it accessible to everyone, things done on line.
 - c. End-year assessment

Questions/Concerns/Suggestions:

- Can we sell cookies as a fundraiser to replace pizza sales?
 - Principal → Yes, we can as long as the format is the same as breakfast bags & milk sale. Distribution might be an issue but possible.
- What do we use the fundraised money for?
 - School books in the library, fun fair, teachers' requests, and spent on where needs are.
- Can donations be made to the School Council?
 - Not sure if School Council can receive donations – Susan will ask
 - One school had a fixed donation item on School Cash Online.
 - Principal is to confirm if the school could receive donations.
- Teachers/ staff appreciation ideas:
 - Thank-you cards are to be handed to teachers through administration.
 - Thank-you message to be announced on our behalf on school morning radio
 - Ask Starbucks or restaurants to donate gift cards.
 - We are to discuss what teachers need in the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 5pm