

Blossom Park School Council
Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2022

In Attendance:

Susan Fattal: Chair

Ayan Haji Egeh: Secretary

Nabi Habibi: Treasurer

Caroline Theriault: Principal

Carmelina Falcucci: Vice Principal

Seynab Hersj, Zeina Hosny, Masa Alfarawati, and Sedra Alrajab: Student Representatives

Absent: Tammy Draper: Teacher Representative

1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

- Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- The agenda and minutes from the last meeting were approved.

2. Chair's Update

- Family science night is scheduled for June 1st. OCDSB booked 60 slots for families divided into four sessions, where each session will have 15 families. Unfortunately, only 17 families have been registered to date. As a result, registration will be extended until May 24th.
- Graphic book donation drive: School Council is supporting the library and has asked parents to donate gently used graphic novels to the school from May 10th to May 24th. If this book drive succeeds, other book categories will be requested for donation later.
- Sawmill Creek Metal and E-waste fundraiser event took place on the 13th, 14th and 15th of May. Sawmill Creek School asked the School Council for support. We have placed their posters in the school and shared the emails with the Blossom Park School parents. We hope was a successful event for them.
- The \$500 grant from last year is now deposited into the school council account. The fund will be available for spending this year or next year.
- Regarding the OCDSB financial audit, all papers and documents requested were dropped off at the OCDSB Finance Department on April 7th. Susan mentioned that the School Council accounting book was included in the documents that were sent. If we don't hear back from the board, Susan and Nabi will contact them for a follow-up and request the accounting book back before the end of the school year.

- City of Ottawa tree grant: Susan sent the application and waiting for a confirmation from the city. The chief custodian Anita Sloan was concerned about the number of trees to be planted in the school. Anita thinks planting 12 trees could cause safety hazard, open possibilities for wasp infestation, affect grass growth and snow removal. Susan and Carmelina met with Anita and agreed to bring down the number of trees from 12 trees to 7 trees as a starting point and to test the watering system and the trees maintenance procedure. We can ask for more trees in the future to cover other areas in the yard.
- The school council website experienced technical issues and currently the website is not available for access. As a result, Susan is not able to upload the school council minutes or agendas. Susan reported the issue to the Board.

3. Treasurer' Update

- Susan deposited \$500 grant cheque to bring the total amount of the balance to \$4830.44. We had earned an interest credit of \$1.00. Our balance as of today is \$4831.44

4. Vice Principal's update

- **Student gardening opportunity** - Carmelina will be working with students to clean up the front garden beds at the school - she is looping in the grade 7 and 8 students as a leadership opportunity. We will ask staff for donations of seeds and perennial plants to add to the front. The school has received SpeakUp grant of \$1000 in the past and purchased gardening tools. Members of the School Council will volunteer to supervise the students during the gardening activities. Carmelina will set up a schedule and share with the council members.
- **Grade 8 leaving ceremony** - preparations are underway to host a small, in-person leaving ceremony. It will be held on Monday, June 27th. Students will be allowed to invite 2 family members each to the ceremony. The School Council is asked to present the character education award. In the past a small gift accompanied this recognition.

5. Principal's update

- OSTA has asked for our support in encouraging parents to indicate if they require bussing next year. A link was sent to all families through email.
- Through the months of March and April, when mask mandates were removed in schools, we saw a spike in staff and student absences. As a result of staff shortages, we had to close some classes. Since the mask mandate has returned, we have seen improvements in attendance and have not had to close classes as often.
- Staff have received training on a new literacy screening tool called DIBELS. This tool is a helpful tool to determine next steps to close gaps in literacy that have developed over the past 2 years of unstable schooling experiences.

- Grade 3 and 6 students were engaged in EQAO assessments during the first week in May. It was a new system this year and it went smoothly for all.
- Grades 4-8 students took part in a School Climate Survey in April. The preliminary results of this survey are in and the data look good.
- Caroline, the school principal, will be reassigned to a different school next year. Caroline Rassi will be the new school principal. Caroline will invite the new principal to our next school council meeting.

6. Teacher's Update

- Tammy couldn't join the meeting.

7. Student representative

- Seynab inquired about access to school lockers for grade eight. Caroline mentioned that she permitted the teachers to get lockers for their students. However, teachers would ultimately decide if their students will take the locker or not.
- The student representatives created a club to work on the student yearbook. It is progressing well, and teacher Mme Sahraoui will print the yearbook.
- There will be a grade eight trip next week to the Rideau Sports Centre. The trip will include sport activities and a picnic.
- Sedra mentioned that more sports activities are happening in the school for grades seven and eight.
- The student representatives have been fundraising for their trip by selling freezies, popcorn and snacks. The school sale was a success.

Important Matters for Discussion:

- **Family Science Night:** Susan will contact Scientists in School to order the number of kits needed for the event. Susan will distribute the kits to the students in the school. There are still two open sessions; if we don't have enough participants, the sessions will be cancelled. The sessions will be virtual, and a Microsoft Teams link will be sent to the parents.
- **School Pizza Program:** We usually purchase the pizza from Domino's Pizza. Susan suggested to continue buying from them since we have an account with them. We can explore other options next school year. Susan suggested to have the Pizza Day on Tuesdays, May 31st, June 7th, June 14th, and June 21st. Payment can be done through School Cash online, cheque or cash.
- For advanced credits towards high school during the summer, grade eight can reach out to Miss Jehan for more information.

8. Questions/Concerns/Suggestions

9. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th, 2022, at 5:00 pm.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.