

**Blossom Park School Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting-November 16, 2022, at 5:00 P.M.**

**Present:**

Susan Fattal: Chair  
Tracy-Ann Johnson-Myers: Secretary  
Caroline Rassi: Principal  
Carmelina Falcucci: Vice Principal  
Fatma Mahmoud: Parent Member  
Dina Edrees Said: Student Representative  
Phebe Oyetoran: Student Representative  
Fatema Al-Hasan: Student Representative  
Malak Saleh: Student Representative

Absent: Tammy Draper, Nabi Habibi

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by the Chair. She introduced council members and welcomed the student representatives who were attending for the first time.

**2. Approval of agenda and minutes.**

- The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**3. Chair/Treasurer Update:**

- **Principal's Profile:** Parent members in the School Council reviewed the Principal Profile and shared feedback with Caroline. Caroline shared the profile with the school community and asked for their feedback.
- **Tulip and Hyacinth Bulbs:** The Garden Club, led by Mme. Shohdy and Mme. Hadibi had requested funding of \$60-\$80 to purchase Tulip and Hyacinth bulbs. The Council approved a payment of up to \$60 in the October meeting. The total was \$30.10; Susan was able to get them at a lower price. The students in the Garden Club planted the bulbs last week.
- Mme. Sahraoui requested assistance with funding for soccer balls and equipment for outdoor use. The school will take care of the payments for now but will let the School Council know should they need their support with additional expenses.
- **Pizza Program:** Susan planned on switching to Pizza Pizza because Domino's was raising its prices. They also wanted to charge a \$5.99 delivery fee. Domino's negotiated with us and agreed to waive the delivery fee. They also offered us each box of pizza for 50 cents less.

- In November, pizza day was moved from Tuesday to Thursday based on Ms. Dyke's advice. This was done to accommodate the Ottawa 67's Game on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Susan suggested we continue to keep pizza days on Thursdays.
- Ottawa 67's Game: We approved a payment of \$434 to partially fund the trip. Two hundred ten (210) students participated, reducing the cost to \$420. Susan and Nabi signed the cheque and dropped it off at the school. The school has not yet deposited the cheque.
- We had a transfer of signing authority from Nabi to Tracy. Nabi is unable to continue as a signing authority due to time constraints. Tracy's time is more flexible. Susan thanked Nabi for his hard work, willingness and generosity in the past in signing School Council cheques
- Susan received an email on November 16<sup>th</sup> from our new trustee, Matthew Lee. He introduced himself and welcomed our comments and input. He provided his email should we need to ask any questions or communicate with the Board through him. He also expressed his willingness to attend our Council meetings should we need him to clarify any decisions by the Board that might affect us.
- We were invited as a School Council to participate in Blossom Park's Remembrance Day ceremonies. Tracy, Fatma and Susan attended and represented the Council in laying down a wreath.

### **Financial Report:**

- Pizza money for the month of November has been deposited. The amount was \$1502.45. We also earned an interest rate of \$1.09 from the bank.
- As of November 16<sup>th</sup>, we have in our account \$8581.63. This money, however, is not all ours. The amount includes the \$420 written to the school for the 67's game. Once the school deposits the cheque, the amount will be withdrawn from our account.
- We have \$200 set aside for an outdoor classroom.
- We also have a \$1000 PIP Grant. This money belongs to the School Council but must be spent on a parent engagement activity at the school.
- We owe the school **\$872.49** in pizza money for October.
- We still have two pizza day money for November to submit to the school. It is estimated that we owe the school around **\$854.90** for the month of

November. The estimated amount we owe the school for the months of October and November is **\$1727.39**.

- After the monies owing to the school is deducted, we will have \$5234.24 available to spend.
- Each time a payment is made on School Cash Online, the School Council pays a cost recovery fee of 3%, which is added to the base cost of each item. It is more profitable for the Council to accept payments through cheques or cash, though Cash Online is more convenient for some parents. In October, we paid \$19.20 in recovery fees, and in November, we paid \$24.90. The pizza program is a fundraiser, and the School Council can accommodate that. However, should the Council or School decide to sell a fixed item, such as school merchandise, on Cash Online, we would have to consider this and add the 3% recovery fee to the cost of these items.

#### **4. Principal's Report**

- **November 4 PD Day Debrief:**

- The morning session focused on Equity Centred Trauma and Informed Education
  - To develop an awareness of the principles of equity-centered trauma-informed education.
  - To deepen staff knowledge of the impact of harm, hurt and trauma inside and outside the classroom.
  - To examine staff mindsets (bias, deficit and savior mentalities) and cultivate an approach to supporting students based in curiosity, compassion and unconditional positive regard; and
  - To build capacity for equitable trauma-informed decision-making through using the four proactive priorities (flexibility, predictability, connection, empowerment).
- The afternoon session focused on Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Training.
    - To revisit our previous learning of anti-human sex trafficking to ensure staff understanding of the risk factors and signs that a student is being lured, groomed or trafficked;
    - To expand staff knowledge of the use of the OCDSB reporting and responding protocol through an exploration of case studies; and
    - To build staff capacity to deliver health curriculum content based on topics such as consent, boundaries and healthy relationships through resource sharing and collegial consultation.

## Engaging activities at Blossom Park Public School

- Junior Gardening Club with Mme. Shohdy and Mme. Hadibi on Tuesdays at first recess. All the bulbs have been planted. Caroline thanked the School Council for purchasing the bulbs to be planted in time.
- Blossom Park hosted two meaningful Remembrance Day ceremonies on Nov 11, 2022.
- K-8 students are enjoying the dance lessons provided by Luv2 Groove this week, and we look forward to the showcases on Friday, November 18, 2022. Information was sent out to parents at the beginning of the week, informing them of the dance program and the presentation happening on Friday. It also requested a donation of \$2 from each student to offset the cost of the activity. The K-4 students will present in the first session: from 12:10-12:50, and the grades 5-8 classes will present from 1:40-2:20. Families are encouraged to attend and watch their child's performance.
- The New Trustee, Matthew Lee, visited the school on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Grades 4-8 Trip to 67's hockey game on November 15 was a great success. Caroline thanked Ms. Dykes for her thorough planning and the School Council for their generous support in providing students with this opportunity. Students were exemplary and followed all instructions and expectations provided.
- Progress reports will go home electronically and in paper form tomorrow, Thursday, Nov 17. Parent-teacher conferences will occur on Thursday evening, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and Friday morning November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Girls on The Run is ending: The final 5km race is this Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at Louis Riel School in the East end. Blossom Park has registered for another Girls on the Run session for Spring of 2023, but for the Grades 7 and 8 girls.
- YOSICO group activities will begin on November 23 every Wednesday from 1-1:40 pm in the gym for grades 4-5 boys.
- Identity Day Showcase will take place the third week of December and will involve nine homeroom classes.
- The focus of this project is for students to highlight something about their identity and showcase it in the hallways and gym. Parents and other classes are invited to come in and view the presentations. More communication will be sent out as information becomes available.

## 5. Student Representatives

- Dina provided an update on the Halloween Dance, which was a success; the students enjoyed themselves.

**Lessons learned:** better manage song requests to prevent too many students from approaching the DJ at the dance for song requests.

The teachers who assisted with the dance were Ms. Christy, Ms. Dykes, Ms. Vallis, Ms. Jehan, and Mme. Chivot

Fatema suggested a Culture Day and Crazy Socks Day as Spirit Day initiatives.

Dina suggested an event for winter (winter carnival). The idea is still in the early stage of inception.

## 6. Matters for discussion

### Questions/Concerns/Suggestions

- Susan suggested a Maple syrup fundraiser for the School Council in March 2023. There is a locally owned Maple Syrup company in Quebec, La Sucrierie Du Violoneux. They would provide us with 1 litre of high-quality dark syrup and put our logo on each bottle. It is free delivery, but we need to place orders at least three weeks in advance. The fundraiser is open to both parents and staff. We would buy each bottle for \$13 and resell it for \$20. We could set up a table in the gym at the end of the school day, and parents pick it up from there. We could also send home purchases with the older children.
- The school does not have a logo, so Susan contacted Ms. Dykes for the Bear photo used on the t-shirts for the school merch. Another suggestion is the globe logo that the School Council normally uses. This or the bear logo could go on the Maple syrup bottles should we go ahead with the fundraiser in March.
- Susan also created some potential logos, which she shared with the Council.
- Caroline questioned the goal of the fundraiser and the purpose of the money to be collected. Before we can approve or disapprove fundraisers, we must establish the goal for which we are collecting money. Parents will need to be informed of this before they send money in.
- Susan explained that School Councils in the OCDSB can undertake two kinds of fundraisers: funds for a specific project and those similar to our pizza program. Money from the pizza program doesn't have to go towards a particular project. The money collected is placed in our School Council account and used for new student initiatives, teacher requests or projects related to the students. We need

to have money on hand so we have funds available to support student and school initiatives.

- Caroline also wanted to know if Maple Syrup is something the school community might be interested in being responsive to, as \$20 is a hefty amount to request from parents.
- Carmelina suggested that the Council generate a list of things we could fundraise for, including the Maple Syrup, so we get a feel of what families are interested in before investing in one fundraiser. This allows us to capture the voices of families on what they would like to support or contribute towards.
- Carmelina also expressed that \$20 per bottle of Maple Syrup might be too steep for families.
- Susan explained that the Maple Syrup fundraiser might work as no minimum purchase or conditionalities are attached. Parents may choose to participate or not. In the past, she sought parents' input on Council matters through online surveys but received no response. But the Council will continue to extend itself to our parents in the hope they can give their input.
- Tracy suggested giving parents several fundraising options and different price ranges from which to choose. If we sell cheaper items, more parents might participate, thus maximizing our earning potential.
- Fatma suggested including honey on the list of items to sell.
- Caroline suggested we exercise caution to avoid conflicting fundraisers or requesting too much money from parents too close to each other.
- Tracy asked about taking payment for pizza once per term instead of monthly. This might be less taxing on parents. It would also make it easier for us to have other fundraisers in any given month without overwhelming our parents.
- Susan explained that collecting monthly pizza payments is more convenient for parents than paying per term. The decision to collect monthly was also made with parents in mind and their ability to pay a lump sum per term.
- Fatma expressed maintaining the per-month pizza payment if parents or children change their minds about participating in the pizza program in any given month.
- Carmelina suggested using the January-March break as a trial to see how parents will respond to paying per term instead of monthly.

- Susan will collect the pizza payment for December and January towards the end of November and will provide feedback to the Council on the outcome and whether we want to continue monthly or not.
- The Maple syrup fundraiser has been tabled for another time.
- Awareness Campaign for Book Care and Book Returns: Last year Ms. Natyshak, the school Librarian, expressed concerns about students not returning library books or returning them damaged. Susan contacted her again this year and learnt that Ms. Natyshak received some damaged books this year, mostly books that have gotten wet. She requested our help in running a campaign to raise awareness among students and families on the importance of library books and how to take care of their library books.
- Tracy asked whether the library could allow students to return borrowed books once they are done using them instead of keeping them for a week or more until Library Day. If students are allowed to return the library books after they are done reading them, this might lessen the chance of them getting damaged or misplaced.
- Fatma suggested having a penalty system where students are asked to replace lost or damaged books.
- Susan noted that there is already a penalty system in place.
- Carmelina mentioned that, based on her understanding and observations, some classes bring a bin from the classroom to the library on their scheduled visits. If this bin is housed in the classroom, students could return their library books to the bin, and when they have their allocated library session, the books will be returned. She also suggested keeping borrowed library books in a Ziploc bag to reduce the possibility of them getting wet.
- Tracy confirmed that library books are already sent home in Ziploc bags.

**Ms. Dykes MakerSpace:**

- Ms. Dykes and some other teachers started a MakerSpace. They need clear storage bins and donated items from the parents.
- Susan contacted several retailers, including IKEA, Home Depot and Canadian Tire, to see if they could donate or give us the items at a discounted price.
- Susan suggested the purchase of six 26 Litre bins, fifteen 14Litre bins and fifteen 5Litre bins for an estimated cost of a maximum of \$300. If the school can share the cost with us, it would be \$150 from the Council and \$150 from the School. If the school cannot contribute the \$150 towards purchasing the bins, the Council

will assume the total cost of the bins, but on a reduced budget of \$200-\$250 maximum.

**Date of next meeting:** The suggested date for our next meeting is Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00 pm via Google Meet.

The Chair ended the meeting by thanking everyone for their time and input.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.