

**Blossom Park School Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting-April 26, 2023, at 5:00 P.M.**

**Present:**

Susan Fattal: Chair  
Tracy-Ann Johnson-Myers: Secretary  
Fatma Mahmoud: Parent Member  
Caroline Rassi: Principal  
Carmelina Falcucci: Vice Principal  
Tammy Draper: Teacher Representative  
Dina Edrees Said: Student Representative

Yasser Zein-Alabedin: Parent  
Alhassan: Parent

**Absent**

Phebe Oyetoran: Student Representative  
Taimi Fitzsimmons: Student Representative

**1. Welcome**

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by the Chair.
- Susan welcomed the new parent to the meeting.

**2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

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

**3. Chair's Report**

- Eleven families and five staff participated in the Maple Syrup fundraiser. We sold 28 bottles. Cheque was made to the seller.
- Scientists-in-School workshops have been booked in coordination with the teachers and are being delivered to the assigned classes. The Council will reimburse the school for three workshops (three workshops are free). Therefore, we owe the school \$705.
- We received the \$500 parent involvement grant—to encourage parents to get involved at school. The grant can be rolled over if not used by the end of the school year. The Council is free to spend this grant on any activity it chooses.
- This grant is different from the PRO grant, which must be reported. This \$500 grant only needs to be documented.
- Tree grant: We have been approved for a City of Ottawa Tree grant for 6 trees to be planted in the schoolyard.

- The Council approved \$350 to spend on protecting and watering the trees. Anita sourced a wagon for the school. It's now on the premises. The Council will contact Home Depot, and other hardware stores, for possible tools and items donations. If not, the council will go ahead and purchase those items.
  - The trip for grades 2/3 and 3 is scheduled for May 24. Council will share the cost with the school (\$235). Susan asked Caroline to let us know if they have any problems funding the trip so the Council can take care of it if needed.
- 4. Financial Report:**
- Susan shared the financial report document with the members: [April Financial Report](#)
- 5. Principal and Vice Principal's Report**
- Caroline welcomed the new parents.

### **Activities Debrief**

- Bulletin board competition amongst classes is ongoing. The theme is Spring, and the hallways are blooming with vibrant colours.
- Scientists in Schools workshops are a big hit, and our kinder classes are overjoyed with the experience. Thank you, School Council, for providing this great experience to our students
- Food Bank Fundraiser in April has been put on hold due to several unforeseen circumstances.
- Girls on the Run has started up for the Spring session (April 3-June 5)
- Grade 7 and 8 immunization clinic was on Monday, April 23, 2023

### **Upcoming Engaging Activities at BPPS**

- We look forward to the Eid celebration dance on Thursday, April 27 to celebrate the end of Ramadan.
- Scholastic Book Fair is running here at Blossom from May 1 to May 5th.
- Pathways to Exploration (Formerly Enrichment Mini Courses) offered to selected Grade 8 students May 1-5, 2023 (Ottawa University or Carleton University). We have one student attending.
- On May 4, we are hosting a PJ Walk. Staff and students will wear their favourite PJs and walk 167 steps (and more!) around Blossom Park P.S. to support

Ronald McDonald House. We ask that students and staff donate \$2 to participate which will go directly to Ronald McDonald House Charities.

- EQAO planning is underway for grade 3 and 6 students from May 15-19. Communication has been shared in the parent Weekly Update, and more information will be sent directly to grades 3 and 6 parents.
- Teachers who teach the Health curriculum will begin sending letters home soon to advise families of the dates that they will be exploring the Human Development unit with students. Parents will have the option of opting out of these lessons.
- We look forward to the Mafalo Interactive Drumming presentation for grades 1 to 7 students on May 12. Un grand MERCI to Mme Sahraoui, who has organized this presentation for us. We are fortunate to have received funds through the FSL account from the board to help promote French cultural activities.
- June 20 Catch Up vaccination clinic at Blossom Park PS from 12:00 pm -7 pm in the school library. This is organized by OPH for all families in the area
- Grade 8 leaving ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27 11:30 -12:30 pm. More information will be sent to grade 8 families closer to the date.

### **Provincial Announcements:**

We have received information from Associate Director Brent Reynolds regarding the recent announcement from Education Minister Lecce. The OCDSB has also posted a response to the provincial announcements on the school board's website. As more details become available about what these announcements mean for our students, we will communicate them with all families.

### **2023-2024 School Year Planning:**

We have begun our planning for the 2023-2024 school year. We are currently working on class organizations and staff assignments. Our projected enrollment is 354 students. Once we have finalized our class organization, we will share this information with our families.

### **6. Teacher Representative: Tammy Draper**

- Mr. Gibson asked Tammy to present to the Council that the school needs two stoves and is asking for possible donations.

### **7. Matters for Discussion**

#### **Parent workshop suggestions**

- Ashley Ladouceur, a Certified Parent Coach in Ottawa, contacted the Council. She supports parents seeking ways to connect and collaborate with their kids.
- She has offered our School Council a free Parenting Workshop - From Frustration to Peace and Connection - as a fundraising opportunity for our school.

- The School Council can charge for the workshop if it wishes, and all proceeds would be ours. Some schools have done a parent's night out in the gym with treats, refreshments, etc.
- The workshop usually lasts 45 minutes to an hour, and she is happy to stick around after to answer any questions.
- Ashley can do the workshop in person or virtually.
- She is OK with the idea of us inviting parents from other schools if we want.
- Susan had a vote on the idea: Tracy and Fatma are not in support of the idea.
- Caroline lauded Susan on her proactiveness and ability to find activities to engage parents. She suggested to Susan that for future parental involvement ideas, the Council should consider providing daycare for families.
- Carmelina suggested getting a feel from the parents as to what they might be interested in, so we can plan a diverse set of activities for them to engage in.
- Susan will contact Ashley to thank her and let her know our council will not proceed with the workshop.

### **End-of-Year Fun Activity for the Kids**

- Susan raised concerns about how the end-of-year fun fair activity has been carried out in the past. There are many lessons to be learnt from past experience. We have received complaints from a couple of parents in the past about how it was carried out.
- The last fun fair before the pandemic was held in 2019 as a family fun day with a pot-luck and carnival activities for the children to play. Because of the weather, the activities were held inside.
- This fun fair usually costs the School Council approximately \$2000-\$2500.
- Susan thinks we are not ready to have a Fun Fair this year. So, instead, we'll start planning early next school year and develop a new format for the event.
- Susan asked the principal and Vice Principal what restrictions are in place coming out of COVID and whether we could have a fun fair involving games, food, etc. Caroline indicated there are no restrictions on social gatherings. All those were restricted during the pandemic.
- Carmelina suggested we look at smaller schools for examples of how they have carried out their fun fairs.
- She also suggested having a rain date for the event as the school is too small to host a fun fair indoors.

### **Possible Ideas to replace the end-of-year fun activity for the kids**

- **First Suggestion: "Mad Science" Show**
- They do 45-minute shows for up to 125 kids at a time.
- The fee is \$400 per workshop plus transport and taxes.

### **Second Suggestion: Magic Show with Chris Pilsworth**

- Chris gave two fun virtual shows at our school in 2021.
- We received very positive feedback from both the kids and the teachers.
- \$500 for a 50 minutes show

- Two shows for \$650.

Caroline suggested having an ultimate frisbee company teach the kids how to play frisbee.

Susan suggested having both activities (frisbee and magic show) since we will not have an end-of-year event. Both Tracy and Fatma agreed and supported the idea.

The Council offered the school up to \$600 to cover either part of the students' frisbee activity cost or any field trips the teachers may prefer to have in place of it.

We will also go ahead with the magic show.

### **Teacher Appreciation activity**

- In 2022, the Council held a virtual assembly, and the students put together a beautiful presentation and video for the teachers.
- Susan suggested forming a committee to help plan Teachers' Appreciation Day activities for the teachers and staff for this year.
- Possible committee members: student members, Carmelina and Susan.

### **Graduation Mural**

- Dina presented the idea of a grade 8 mural.
- Carmelina raised concerns about having a mural on the wall every year. Instead, she suggested planting a tree, a plaque, a mini garden etc.
- Tammy supported the idea of starting a tradition of planting something that can be left for other students to carry on the tradition. The courtyard at school is a great place to work on that.
- Carmelina offered to assist Dina in putting together a survey to capture the grade 8 voices in carrying out a school-leaving activity.

### **Questions/Concerns/Suggestions**

- 8. Suggested date for the next meeting:** The proposed date for our next meeting is **May 24 at 5:00 pm via Google Meet.**
- 9. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm