

Blossom Park School Council
Minutes of Meeting - May 24, 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

Absent

Tammy Draper: Teacher Representative
Dina Edrees Said: Student Representative
Phebe Oyetoran: Student Representative
Taimi Fitzsimmons: Student Representative

• **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by the Chair.

• **Approval of agenda and minutes**

The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

• **Chair's Report**

- There are two magic shows planned for the school in June 2023. Chris Pilsworth will perform two shows on June 12, 9:30 am (younger kids) and 11:20 am (older kids). Each show is 50 minutes long. He will be paid \$650 after the shows.
- We received an email from Mme. Shohdy. She asked us to provide some freezies to award the winning class of the bulletin board design competition. Tracy purchased the freezies and dropped them off at school.
- Tree Grant: The Council received an email from Brooke Milsom (City of Ottawa), who informed us that the planting season has begun for our ward. We still don't have a specific date, but planting should begin in June. She will visit the school a few days before planting starts to mark the exact locations of the trees.
- Teacher and staff appreciation Day: Susan met with a student committee of three student representatives and three additional students from grade 8. Susan also met with Carmelina, and it was decided to have the Teacher Appreciation Day on June 9th as a virtual assembly between 10:00-10:30 am. Susan will give a few words of thank you to the teachers on behalf of the Council and the parents. A presentation will follow this in the form of a slide show. There will also be a fun video presentation of the teachers the students have put together. After that, there will be a raffle for gift cards, and approximately seven teachers and staff will get a chance to win one.

We also have some coffee donated by Starbucks. Some snacks and baked products will be on the table for the teachers to enjoy. These will be placed in the staffroom before 10:00 am. We will also provide juice for those who do not drink coffee.

- Courtyard Project: The space needs much work—lawnmowing, etc.- before being adequately utilised. However, we have been told by the chief custodian that the school is not allowed to use a motorized tool on the compound. Once the students settle on the dates they would like to get the project underway, they will advise Susan so she can see what assistance or supervision to provide.
- Caroline has a non-motorized lawnmower she is willing to lend to clean up the space.
- Susan suggested adding picnic tables to the courtyard space once it is prepped.
- Carmelina asked that Council, Administration and Staff at the school always collaborate on school initiatives and ideas so that the students can receive as much support and supervision as needed.
- Susan informed the Council that Tracy (Secretary) will leave the School and the Council at the end of the school year. She will be relocating to Kingston with her family. Susan thanked Tracy for her work in the council and wished her all the best in her new journey.
- **Financial Report:**
Susan shared the financial report document with the members: [May Financial Report.](#)
- **Principal and Vice Principal's Report**
Activities Debrief
 - The Eid celebration dance on Thursday, April 27, was a great success.
 - The Scholastic Book Fair from May 1 to May 5th ran very smoothly.
 - Everyone had a blast during the PJ Walk. We were able to donate \$323.80 to the Ronald McDonald House.
 - The Mafalo Interactive Drumming presentation for grades 1 to 7 students on May 12 was fabulous!! The students really enjoyed it and we all got the chance to dance in the crowd!. Un grand MERCI to Mme Sahraoui who organized this presentation for us. We were fortunate to have received funds through the FSL account from the board to help promote French cultural activities.
 - Junior Girls Soccer team represented us with great pride at the Soccer tournament on May 16. Ms Young was very proud of her team.

- Junior Boys team proudly brought home the 1st place ribbons on May 18. Mr Ruth is very proud of his team's achievement!
- EQAO for grade 3 and 6 students was completed this week.
- Grade 3/4 and the grade 4/5 classes had a great time on their end of year field trip to the Heritage Museum today.

Upcoming Engaging Activities at BPPS

- Intermediate Boys Soccer Team will participate in their tournament on May 25
- Violence Prevention Workshops being provided to our Junior/Intermediate classes through our Social Worker on May 9th, May 30, June 6, and June 13.
- Ultimate Frisbee training for all classes is scheduled for May 29 to 31.
- Band members have been invited to perform in a Family of Schools concert at Ridgemont HS on June 6 at 6:30 pm. Band members families are invited to attend
- Magic Show is scheduled for June 12 for all classes. Thank you, School Council, for facilitating this event for us
- Lacrosse training sessions provided to junior classes on June 13 through OCDSB
- June 20 Catch Up vaccination clinic at Blossom Park PS from 12:00 pm -7pm in the school library. This is organized by OPH for all families in the area
- **DATE CHANGE** Grade 8 leaving ceremony is scheduled for **Monday, June 26**, 11:30 -12:30 pm. More information will be sent to grade 8 families closer to the date.
- Caroline noted that the School Council would be contacted later to see how we could contribute to the graduation leaving ceremony. Susan indicated that in the past, a representative from the Council, usually the Chair, would give a speech to the students and families. We also provided a character award to one student. Attached to this reward is a gift card for \$50. Last year, there were four winners (students who were active members of the School Council), so we contributed \$100 instead of \$50. Each student received a \$25 gift card.
- Caroline expressed her concerns about offering monetary awards to a select group of students. She suggested we revisit the monetary attachment as it might send the wrong message to the rest of the students.
- Caroline suggested that we think of something that the Council could contribute to benefit all students. She will consult with Carmelina and get back to the Council.

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2023-2024 School Year Planning:

The planning is still underway. Class organizations and staff assignments continue to be our focus at this time. We are in the process of interviewing for new positions, and we will communicate our staff list to families in June.

- **Matters for Discussion**

- **End-of-Year Freezies for the Students:**

- Because we will not have a big end-of-year event, Susan suggested that the Council offer freezies to all students at the end of the school year or after the magic show. For example, getting eight boxes of freezies would cost us less than \$70. Council members approved a budget of up to \$60 for the freezies.
- Susan also mentioned having an ice cream truck come to the school. The issue with that, however, is that because students have to order from the truck, it may take time. Secondly, the Council may only be able to cover a portion of the cost, so students may need to contribute towards the cost of their ice cream.
- Caroline lauded both ideas but mentioned that the grade 8s want to fundraise and sell freezies to raise money for their end-of-year trip. She suggested we check to ensure there isn't a clash with the grade 8s initiative.
- Caroline supported the idea of an ice cream truck. She had one at her former school, and it cost \$1200. Logistically, she limited the options (two kinds of soft serves and two kinds of slushies). Students could pre-select, and teachers would take their orders. Students would be served by class to reduce serving time and minimise crowding at the truck. It would cost approximately \$1500 to serve our students.
- Susan doesn't believe the Council can afford to cover the entire cost of an ice cream truck.
- Tracy does not support the ice cream truck if the students have to contribute out of pocket. If the Council cannot cover the cost of the ice cream truck, we should only offer the freezies.
- Susan will contact different ice cream trucks to see if we can get any deals before tabling the idea.
- Carmelina suggested having the ice cream truck for the Grade 8 leaving ceremony and the freezies for the rest of the school. This would be instead of a cake etc. The leaving ceremony will end around noon, so the truck won't coincide with any school buses, and the rest of the school will be in class and won't encounter the truck.

- Caroline pointed out that most ice cream trucks usually have a base price, so it might prove very expensive to have an ice cream truck for only the grade 8 students.

Encouraging More Parent Involvement in the School Council:

- Susan suggested ideas for parents to meet the principal and get to know the School Council. She will send out information to the parents in the coming week seeking parent members. This is urgent as we need a second parent member with a co-signing authority to sign the cheques after Tracy leaves. For the next school year, Susan suggested starting the school term with a social event—for example, coffee with the principal or the Student Council.

Questions/Concerns/Suggestions

- **Suggested date for the next meeting:** The proposed date for our next meeting is June 21st at **5:00 pm via Google Meet.**
- **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm