

Blossom Park School Council
Minutes of Meeting-June 21, 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
Phebe Oyetoran: Student Representative
Mohammad Rasool Nasrat (new parent member)

Absent

Dina Edrees Said: Student Representative
Taimi Fitzsimmons: Student Representative

1. Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by the Chair.
- Susan welcomed new parent member Mohammad Rasool Nasrat to the meeting. She also introduced him to other members of the Council.

2. Approval of agenda and minutes

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

3. Chair's Report

- The magic show went well, and the students gave positive feedback.
- We have had 6 trees planted in our schoolyard. Based on the experience of Sawmill Creek, we needed a change of plan from plastic snow fencing to steel/galvanized fencing. We, therefore, had to increase our budget to another \$200. The Council approved this increase. We originally had a budget of \$350, making it \$550 in total for tree protection. Of this amount, \$483.10 was spent. Susan purchased two rolls of chicken wire, 12 steel T-posts and a roll of rope to enforce the trees and protect them from the wind. Susan also rented a T post driver for one day from Home Depot. To water the trees, Anita has volunteered to do the watering in the summer as it is a bit challenging for the parents.
- Susan bought a water pump to get the water from the bins into the gator bags. She also purchased a charger for the water pump and donated a 12 V battery.
- Teacher Appreciation Day went well. It was well received by the teachers and staff. Susan thanked the students who participated and helped during the planning phase.

- The Council paid for a large yard sign for the Grade 8 graduation ceremony. Council approved the amount of \$174.18 for the sign.
- Freezies/Ice Cream: Susan contacted an ice cream truck provider that Caroline had suggested about providing ice cream for the students as a school-leaving treat but has not received a response. Caroline suggested contacting them herself to find out about the pricing of the basic package.
- Courtyard: Susan will work with the girls to spruce up the courtyard area. Susan contacted some parents, inviting them to join the School Council. One parent expressed an initial interest but then withdrew.

4. Financial Report:

- Susan shared the financial report document with the members: [June 21 Financial Report](#).

5. Principal and Vice Principal's Report

- Caroline welcomed the new parent member.

It has been a true pleasure to work and learn with you all this year. While the Blossom Park PS School Council is a small team, it is a mighty powerhouse run by dynamic individuals. Thank you for all you have done to support our students this year. We look forward to our continued work together in the 2023-2024 school year!

Activities Debrief

- The Intermediate Boys' Soccer Team represented our school with great pride at their tournament on May 25. We are grateful to Mr. Parson and Mr. Ruth for coaching this team and the parent volunteers who drove the team.
- The Violence Prevention sessions that were provided to our Junior/Intermediate students offered helpful reminders to students about managing conflicts.
- The Ultimate Frisbee training for all classes was a big hit. Teachers expressed interest in having this workshop available to students again next year and for more than one session.
- The Family of Schools concert at Ridgemont HS on June 6 was attended by many of our school band members and their families. It was a great event.
- Thank you, School Council, for bringing the Magic show to Blossom last week!
- Lacrosse training sessions provided to junior classes were very engaging. We are looking forward to this opportunity again next year.

Upcoming Engaging Activities at BPPS

- We are looking forward to celebrating the achievements of our Grade 8 students at the Leaving Ceremony on **Monday, June 26**, 11:30 -12:30 p.m.
- We will host a talent show on June 27 for all students. We are looking forward to the student’s performances.
- We have hired an ice cream truck to serve ice cream and slushies to all students and staff, free on June 27. The school will cover this expense as a fun way to close the year.
- It is estimated that 400 servings of ice cream cones will cost \$2260
- The school can cover this cost but welcome any assistance the Council can provide if it can do so.
- The ice cream/slushie will be free of charge for all students and staff.
- The Council agreed that if the school can cover the total cost of the ice cream truck, we will not contribute but will instead roll over any available monies to the next school year.

2023-2024 School Year Planning:

Here is our tentative school organization for the 2023-2024 school year

Class	Tentative Teacher
Kinder A	Teacher Vacant, Ms Lici Zhou ECE
Kinder B	Shahinaz Shody, Sarah Darrat ECE
R1A	Katie Hoekstra (on leave)
R1B	Vacant
R2A	LeeAnn Sow
R2/3A	Erin Trotechaud
R3A	Rashmi Sharma
R4/5A	Katie Young
R5A	Jessica Piribauer

R5/6A	Stephen Ruth
R7/8A	Clarence Porter
R7/8B	Craig Parsons
R7/8C	Vacant
MF4/5A	Nadia Hadibi
MF5/6A	Sarah Sahraoui
MF7/8A	Sara Chivot
B4/5/6A	Elizabeth (Mandy) Warland,
G7/8A	Joel Gibson
Core French	Hayley Doelman, Rebecca Vallis
Support (LST, LRT, ESL)	Allison Downton, Tammy Draper, Sandra Floyd, Fatima Salman, Annie Smart,
EAs	Michael Mullin, Tatsiana Poole, Hailey Scott
Vice Principal	Carmelina Falcucci
Principal	Caroline Rassi

We are saying goodbye to:

Salma Ali
Rinki Anand
Andrea Barker
Christine Leger
Emily Low
Ash Naidoo
Christopher Rowe
Jason Torrito
Spencer Werden

6. Teacher Representative: Tammy Draper

- Tammy thanked the Council for the Teacher Appreciation Day function.

Student Representative Phoebe thanked the School Council for its hard work and contribution to the Blossom Park school community during the 2022-2023 school year.

7. Matters for Discussion

Suggestions for encouraging parental involvement in the Council

- Tracy suggested a pizza night where parents are invited to come in and dine with their children. This may encourage them to be more involved in school and Council activities.
- Caroline explained that the school is considering the idea of an informal social gathering on Meet the Teachers Night so parents can become acquainted with the school.
- Looking Back/Looking Ahead:
 - The pizza program returned after two years of being on hold due to the pandemic.
 - We held a honey and maple syrup fundraisers, but the pizza program is the main one for the Council.
 - We brought several topics to the fore, one of which was bullying.
 - We brought the Scientists in School workshops.
 - The Council assisted with the Maker Space by spreading the word and seeking donations.
 - We spearheaded the tree-planting project and contributed to school trips.
- The Council will work on recruiting more parents for the upcoming school year. The Council will continue to take care of the positive relationship between the School and the Council.
- Carmelina suggested a memo or announcement from the Council at the beginning of the year to say it's prepared to provide some funding for some excursions (virtually, on-site or off-property). This might give teachers and parents a better sense of what is available to them and what they can tap into.
- Susan explained that while this is a good idea, the Council cannot commit a certain amount as the budget begins at the year's start and grows with each fundraising activity. She instead asked that the school indicate to the Council what it will need assistance with so the Council can have an idea of what assistance to provide.
- Caroline would like to reopen the discussion around the monthly paperwork associated with the pizza program. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting in September.
- Carmelina suggested that because the fall term is shorter, we could revisit the School Cash online and gauge the responses. If, during the winter term, we find the School Cash online is not working, we could revert to paper order forms.
- Susan explained that based on her experience with the parents and the students in our school, shifting to School Cash Online orders without offering a cash payment option might be challenging to many families, either because of technology usage challenges or financial reasons. She said that should the paper

orders pose a challenge to the school, the Council is willing to pay for the paper or provide its own paper to print the forms. We can discuss that further in September.

Susan thanked the Council members for their contribution to the School Council. She wished Tracy all the best in her future endeavours.

Tracy and Fatma thanked Susan for her hard work and dedication to the School Council. They also highlighted the excellent relationship that the Council executive members were able to forge during the school year.

Tammy thanked the School Council for its hard work, especially with the tree planting initiative.

Questions/Concerns/Suggestions

8. Suggested date for the next meeting: September 20, 2023.

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm