

Blossom Park School Council
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday January 17, 2024

Present

Susan Fattal: Chair and Treasurer

Mohammad Rasool Nasrat: Parent Member

Caroline Rassi: Principal

Carmelina Falcucci: Vice Principal

Noor Aldulaimi: Parent

Muna Musaar: Parent

Aisha Abdulmumini: Parent

Maulid Hassan: Parent

Absent

Fatma Mahmoud: Parent Member

Tammy Draper: Teacher Representative

1. Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by the Chair.
- Susan welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Chair's Report

- **PRO Grant Update**
 - Susan contacted both Family Services Ottawa and OCISO to learn about possible parenting workshops for our families.

- Family Services Ottawa have a workshop entitled “Effective Parenting through Positive Discipline” originally priced at \$640 for a two-hour workshop (20-30 people). They agreed to reduce the price to \$520 for a 1 hour-30 minute workshop.
- The workshop is interactive in its second part.
- We will be serving beverages, snacks or pizza for the participants.
- Caroline will let Susan know about possible childcare options.
- Susan applied for the PRO Grant (\$750). The workshop is booked for **Monday March 4 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM.**
- The facilitator will prepare handouts in Arabic as well for the Arabic speaking families.
- In case of a cancellation, we need to inform them 48 hours before the scheduled date to get a refund; 20% administrative fees will be paid.
- Susan suggested not to cancel. We can invite Sawmill Creek parents to join in case of a low number of registered Blossom Park families.
- OCISO also responded to us and told us parenting workshops are usually done by MLO’s; they recommended that we contacted Mr. Abdulwahab Ibrahim, our school’s MLO, to prepare an Arabic presentation for our families at no cost.
- Susan suggested doing the Arabic presentation in the future as part of another event.
- **Pizza Forms**
 - Pizza forms were sent home with the students on Monday.
 - Ms. Murch’s popcorn forms were distributed the same day. Susan will let Ms. Murch know our future dates of form distribution to avoid any confusion.

4. Financial Report

Susan shared January financial report with the council: [January Financial Report](#)

5. Principal and Vice Principal’s Report

Activities Debrief

- We had a great first week back. Our Welcome back assembly was impactful. We will continue to promote the **New Year New Me** theme, as outlined in the Weekly Update to parents.

- Grades 7/8 classes enjoyed the outdoors this week during their field trip to MacSkimming Outdoor Education Center. The teachers took it upon themselves to provide a true Canadian experience by providing students with a hot dog lunch and s'mores for dessert. The students really enjoyed sitting by the fire in the open air. The school made sure that the hot dogs were halal.

Upcoming Engaging Activities at BPPS

- YOCISO will continue in January and we will add 2 Intermediate groups (boys and girls)
- All Grade 8 students will begin selecting courses for Grade 9 via Xello
- Ms Trotechaud, Ms Sharma, and Ms Warland's classes will be welcoming the Junior Medics volunteer from the University of Ottawa for a First Aid and Epipen presentation
- Ms Young and Ms Piribauer's classes will be going to MacSkimming on January 23.
- As term 1 is ending soon, teachers are finalizing their units and getting ready to write report cards. Term 2 begins on February 5. Shortly after report cards are sent home, teachers will begin working on Term 2 IEPs.
- Ms Dykes and her team will be running a Winter Carnival in early March. More details to come.

6. Matters for Discussion

Students' Ongoing Behaviour Concerns

- In the previous meeting, Caroline shared with the council the ongoing behaviour concerns at school and sought our input and support.
- Susan shared a presentation highlighting some points and suggestions for analyzing and dealing with inappropriate behaviour at school: **Students' Behaviour Concerns: Highlights and Suggestions**
- Caroline agreed with the idea that behaviour is a symptom rather than a problem. Children need the most love but some students ask for it in the most unloving way. They try to seek positive attention but do it in a negative way.
- The ideas in the presentation align with the strategies that the school has in place to deal with behavioural issues.
- Caroline also agreed that empathy is very important as a first step to solve inappropriate behavioural issues.

- Regarding having bus monitors, Caroline said it was tricky. In the past, there was an official CAA program to train older students to be bus monitors. It was a leadership opportunity for the students; all expectations were explained to them. Unfortunately, the students abused that role; they were carried away and did not play it in a safe manner. They eventually gave up that role. Unlike bus monitoring, students' practice of leadership has been successful in lunch monitoring.
- Caroline applauded the idea of sending the parents a half-page, bullet-point student behaviour expectations document that is translated to Arabic. There will be no mention of consequences, though; just ideas.
- Mohammad has heard about the increased behavioural issues at school and has contacted the school administration in the past regarding a problem his son had at school. He agreed that sending a translated student behaviour expectations message to the families is a good idea. Parents should help the school deal with this issue.
- Caroline had an eventful week and did not have the time to explore childcare options for the upcoming workshop in March. She will do that next week.

7. Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday February 21st at 5:00 PM.**

Susan thanked everyone for their time and participation and encouraged the new attending parents to join us at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM.