

BOWMORE SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – November 17, 2015
Call to order 6:05pm

Attendees: Principal McKay, Vice Principal Naidoo, Vice Principal Taillefer, Leah Jarvis, Viviana Kohon, Elizabeth Grundon, Michelle Aarts, Andrea Moore, Caroline Vandersham, Nancy Botelho, Kate Clark, Cheryl Ball, Fiona Luck, Shelley Baboolall, Heather Davis, Stephanie Perry, Ashley McKay, Jenn Engels, Jessica Campbell, Anjali Misra, Patricia Beiger, Andres, Beiger, Amanda McFarlane, Andrea Maugham, Andrea Brown, Kathleen Sandusky, Sally Minchin, Abby Smallwood, Alana Peter, Mercedes Lee, Mohammed Haque, Lori Malik, Martin Haardt, Jenn Hermanson

Agenda Item	Decision/Action Taken	Speaker/ Person(s) Responsible
1) Review of Agenda and Call for New Business	Update on Lice checks Introduction of New Council Members Kate Clark would like to be involved with Grant Writing (list of contacts/grants from new co-chairs)	Nancy Botelho; Kate Clark
2) Approval of Minutes from Oct 2015 meeting	? ?	
3) Principal's Report a) Meeting with Kindergarten Families b) School Safety c) Resumption of Work (Teacher's work to rule action)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - issues over new classroom on ground floor (former Parenting Centre) - decisions made quickly wrt new room to make it safe and accessible for kindergarten students - Ms. McKay highlighted that this is a good example of community working with the school to accomplish something quickly and effectively - new accessible bathroom, water fountain, and second sink - TDSB Health and Safety approval of space - Facilities will be updating the heating in that room - Safe entry into school addressed between Caring and Safe Schools Committee and 55 Division - New key system installed - Objective is to balance access to a "Community Hub" with student safety - Work to Rule (WTR) ongoing since May 2015 - Fall saw a downward progression in strike actions - Recent decisions reached between Union and government at a central level - Agreement still needs ratification - Bowmore Staff has worked hard to keep job action out of the school - Work is not yet "back to normal" and there still needs to be an agreement reached between Union and TDSB - Negotiations may be delayed by exit of TDSB Director Donna Kwan - Principal McKay still meeting with Community but extras such as fundraising and community events on hold 	Principal McKay V.P. Naidoo V.P. Taillefer

<p>d) JK/SK playgrounds</p> <p>e) Home Economics</p> <p>f) Equity Committee (V.P. Taillefer)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extracurricular activities will return; communication with parents is being prioritized by teachers based on need - report card formats may be altered or pared down from 'normal' and there will be no kindergarten report cards - trips are voluntary so will continue to be on hold (trips also tax the school budget) - Fundraising is on hold but Ms. McKay is trying to fill gaps with grants or money available from central (TDSB) sources. - Extracurricular activities were paused for ~2 weeks but are resuming at individual teacher's discretion - Character Education assemblies will be resuming - There will be a Winter Concert for Kindergarten and Primary grades; discussion still ongoing regarding a day or evening performance - Concert dates: Dec 15th for Intermediate, Dec 16th for JK/SK/Primary - Admin intends to poll parents this year regarding next year's concert i.e. what format would parents like to see/support, especially JK/SK parents - Professional development for teachers also resuming; Eco-schools, Caring and Safe Schools, and Equity committees will be resuming - The school climate is a priority for admin and staff; actions involve last year's external review, upcoming parent survey, and a 3 year plan. A good school climate depends on the Bowmore community (students, teachers, parents, staff) working together. - Bowmore had a TDSB consultation; recommendations included leveling and resurfacing the East playground and upgrade of South playground to meet safety standards. Completing all recommendations in the South playground estimated to cost \$150,000. Completing all recommendations (excluding costs for grading) in the East playground estimated to cost \$70,000 for a total of \$220,000 for the two playgrounds. - \$75,000 has been granted by TDSB -- accessing Ministry of Education funds -- to undertake playground renovations of the South playground only because it is a shared community space and daycare area. Phase I of renovations is underway. - Regrading the East playground is also important but none of the grant money is permitted to be spent there. - Admin will improve East playground atmosphere with artwork; the idea is to make the space look more like a children's playground and deter abuse by neighbours and theft of playground items. - Room is ready for activities and is open to parent-led activities - Room has 3 stoves and 6 prep stations - Call for interested parents to discuss with Ms. McKay - Role of committee is provide learning in a safe and inclusive environment; pose questions like "are the books we stock appropriate?" 	
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<p>g) Caring & Safe Schools Committee (V.P. Naidoo)</p> <p>h) Eco Schools</p> <p>i) Parent Question regarding Math Texts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teachers have been on board with continuing equity discussions despite WTR; guidance provided for Gr. 7 and 8 students - 14 teachers attended a positive space workshop; result was teachers asking for students across grades to have more interaction and more exposure across age groups - 56 girls have signed up for the Girl's clubs - Bowmore is trying to establish a Boy's club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Caring" comes before "safe" in title as caring is the basis for developing a safe school - Bowmore has a new Code of Conduct as a result of last year's review and revision - plan this year to have more "inclusive" activities; mental health initiatives are a priority and will include parent workshops on mental health, student workshops on cyber conduct and bullying - Bowmore data reveals we have a large population that identify themselves as Aboriginal Canadians (3X the TDSB average) but we lack an Aboriginal voice in the school; new grant applications and initiatives are planned to provide that voice. - Staff will engage in "Restorative Practices" involving advice and professional development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current focus is on minimizing waste; posters being created for "no idling"; Planning for how to get the school back to Gold Eco status this year; Litterless lunch is being very well observed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - new funding is going into a "guided reading program; \$2500 per division; Math prep is underway for EQAO; Math and reading diagnostics have been conducted in each grade - parent suggestion that texts could be accessed online rather than spending money or having students lug home large texts; response - frequently texts are classroom resources rather than the books being assigned to individual students and teachers use photocopies; Also increased laptop/computer access is planned, esp. at Intermediate level. 	
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4) Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BSC is slowly ramping up for work resumption - Pizza lunch will resume January 15th with 5 lunches total for the year (Dec 10th deadline for pizza orders, cash or cheque accepted); includes JK/SK classrooms - Volunteers are needed to hand out pizza but volunteers are asked to give advance warning of their attendance or absence organizers can plan - The BSC has a new Volunteer Coordinator (Mercedes Lee) to assist with tracking and scheduling volunteers for events - Bowmore Rocks! will return April 30th, 2016 at the Legion on Coxwell Ave. Event will include 2 DJs and the Knucklebabies band; hoping to include some aspect of the class project auctions that have been popular in the past. - Direct Donation Pilot Project will be launching in 2016; Funds will be held in a TDSB account for Bowmore until used; TDSB will issue tax receipts. - QSP: \$3500 total sales to date from "soft launch"; 40% of magazine and photo sales go to Bowmore; This year there is an Entertainment Guidebook (coupons) available for purchase and 50% of money comes back to Bowmore; In school launch may still happen. 	Elizabeth Grundon, Lori Malik
5) Finances/Budget	- Voting on spending and budget postponed until February meeting after full resumption of work and fundraising activities	Elizabeth Grundon
6) Other Business a) Lice b) Skating Program c) Girls Club d) Bowmore Road Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 852 students were checked by Nit Pickers at a cost of \$1461; \$3500 raised from donations to cover the cost of contracting Nit Pickers; Need to decide on when to schedule next lice check and whether to fund 2 or 3 checks for the year; Decision to schedule a second check after the Winter break and vote on funding for 3rd check at Feb meeting. - The skating program will be implemented this year; skate and helmet (CSA hockey helmets only) donations welcome. - The Girls Club is launching a food drive for Daily Bread food bank on Monday - Bowmore Admin has contacted 55 Division to request a crossing guard for the Bowmore/Wrensen intersection; traffic survey will be conducted by 55 Division - Parents asked who to address the issue of garbage trucks collecting trash along Bowmore Road during morning school entry time 	Nancy Bothelo, Leah Jarvis, Mr. Naidoo
7) Community Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lego club registration closed with 41 kids enrolled - TDSB site plan for 1884 Queen Street (?) will affect school boundaries in East Toronto 	Elizabeth Grundon; Principal McKay

	- A surveyor from the City has been surveying Fairmount; Bowmore Admin will be meeting with local Councillor M.M. McMahon	
8) Ward 16 Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michelle Aarts has taken up role of Ward 16 Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) co-representative - Introduction of new Superintendent Lucy Giancommo - Initial Ward 16 meeting was mostly a meet-and-greet for new members; Discussion of inviting a Fix Our School representative to talk to individual School Advisory Councils; Discussion with new Superintendent regarding central funding for technology 	Michelle Aarts
9) Movie Night Update	Next movie night is November 27th; Movie TBA	
10) Important Dates, Upcoming School Council Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intermediate Winter Concert December 15th - Primary Winter Concert December 16th - Next meeting February 2nd 	
11) Adjournment	?	