

BOWMORE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date | time September 19, 2017 @ 6:05pm | *Meeting called to order by* Elizabeth Grundon

In Attendance

Elizabeth Grundon, Steve Steers, Heather Groves, Leah Jarvis, Kristin Broadhead, Sarah Kelar, Jen Cloke, Sean Curran, Joanna Karidis, Sandra Gauldie, Manke Emery, Fiona Luck, Michelle Arts, Darryl Gershater, Claudia Mueller, Alana Painter, Nancy Fonseca, Judy Chin, Shaileen Casimiro, Sue Winton, Jenn Engels, Jody Sadofsky, Andrea Maugham, Shannon Akman, Jenni Cathcart, Shelia Rose, Nancy Botelho, Lori Sears-Malik, Heather Flett, Shelly Babodall, Lisa Perelman, Alexis Jennings, Jennifer Petursson, Ruth Lee, Don Fusco, Muling Chung, Lyndsey Camps

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were read from the May 2017 Bowmore School Council Meeting and approved by:

- Nancy Botelho
 - Lindsey Camps
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Bowmore School Council History / Objective

This groups will be recognized as a school council vs. parent council because of the school community support.

Legislative body said every school should have a council. The objective of said council should be to ensure council is in place to make sure each student is able to get the education they deserve and help get the school what they need to achieve that.

School council is the place where schoolboard issues may be raised. For instance, overall education system concerns vs. personal or individual concerns. Any concern that is of personal nature would have to be discussed with and worked through with the admin team.

Open Discussion (Council Members)

School Council nominations are required to be filed out and completed by **4pm on Thursday, September 21, 2017.**

School Council Representative for each classroom will be a new element to help with communication to our Bowmore community. These individuals will be focused strictly on council related news vs. classroom news. For instance, these individuals will ensure that events, dates, and etc are shared within that classroom community (ex: Pizza Lunches, Spiritwear Days, etc.)

Ask for a quiet room. A member of the Bowmore community asked if the administration and Bowmore School Council would consider supporting and implementing a quiet room for students/staff that need some reduced stimulus and/or quiet time.

Treasurer's Report (Michelle Arts)

Please refer to the two documents shared on Bowmore School Council financials: TDSB Year-End School Council PSAB Report 2016 – 2017 and Bowmore School Council Budget vs. Actuals documents for all of the financial details.

Highlights:

- 2016/2017 we raised ~31K, which is down slightly YoY
- Council didn't spend as much; ~4.5K wasn't spent, which was a similar spend YoY
- ~4K carryover from FDK, jerseys and lice checks
- 17.5K for Arts & Science funding was approved last council meeting (May 2017) so that teachers can start booking their programming right in September (i.e. Scientist in the Classroom, Prologue, and Artist in the Classroom)
- ~16.6K is unallocated; staff and parents must come forward with proposals for fund use
- Last year we spent money on:
 - 14K computers
 - \$1400 jerseys
 - \$1500 equipment
 - \$1000 toward music

October Bowmore School Council Meeting vote on budget:

1. what we spend \$ on
2. what proposal for fundraising

Note: send proposals to Bowmoresc@gmail.com

Ask: Are we able to have a sense of what needs there are?

Response:

- Administration helps set guidelines for proposal fulfillment
- Bowmore School Council funds can **only** be allocated to non-schoolboard activities (i.e. no books, capital or infrastructure)
- Recommendation to be informed from the schoolboard website on Bowmore budget from TDSB: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/businessservices/budgetsandfinancialstatements/schoolbudgetallocations.aspx>

Elections Committee Update (Shelia Rose)

Shelia Rose is the outgoing Elections Committee Chair, thank you for your support and contributions.

Rebecca Collier is the incoming Elections Committee Chair

Principle Heather Groves presented her report.

- Bowmore School community is a great community; principle Groves spent a lot of time over the summer getting acquainted with the school to be prepared to 'serve the Bowmore Community and their wonderful kids'
- Principle Groves is a 28 year veteran teacher who has two children of her own in grades 5 & 6 and plans to be participating in their school council to have that lens of experience too
- Due to the changeover of administration so late in the 2016/2017 school year, there was no communication of student / teacher placement; this was unfortunate because principle Groves realizes that it is best to look for ways to ease transition back to school and apologized to the Bowmore School Council group
- To continue to look for ways to ease transition within our children's school lifetime experience, principle Groves is committed to finding ways to support and bring about ease in their transition for groups such as the grade 8s, elementary to junior transition and students who are moving into a gifted environment
- Principle Groves finds the Bowmore Community to be so welcoming, which is nice with an old school with a lot of character; Bowmore School is coming up to 100th Anniversary and would be really nice to find ways to recognize and build about that centennial history like finding archives and updating trophy cases, etc.; principle Groves' own mother taught at Bowmore School from 1959 – 1966
- Principle Groves believes that it is important to always look at the school with a school social justice lens and ensure that all students have access to computers, that WiFi is consistent throughout the building, that vision/hearing testing happens within the school, and that there is equity among classes for excursions (i.e. ROM for a grade 4 class = all grade 4 students get the opportunity to go
- EQOA results:
 - Quite strong and principle Groves is pleased
 - Strong in area of Math but still room for growth; Bowmore staff has had learning / training opportunities for this area
- Principle Groves is amazed with the parent led activities and a reminder that these activities may need a permit to be covered for insurance purposes (note: 2x/year there is a free permit that we can sign up for
- March 24 will have Bowmore Public School host a Spelling Bee; principle Groves wants to get behind some Bowmore kids participation and believes that there needs to be some rigor around supporting students for something like this
- Three pillars of TDSB:
 - Equity,
 - Achievement,
 - Well-being
- Principle Groves is a firm believer that if you build resilience in kids to deal with stress then the child is better equipped in the world and will be supporting presentations to be conducted in the school to focus on ½ of the program would be geared toward professional development and ½ focused directly on the business
- Oct 2 will be photo day vs. Sepetember 22 due to Rosh Hashanah

Steve Steers Vice Principal's Report:

- Principle Groves gave a great reminder that he and his peers are teachers first before administrators and it is important to keep it top of mind
- VP Steers taught in Vietnam International school for two years with a student population of 1000+; his wife (a fellow teacher) and his two children were also living out of Vietnam during that time
 - Valley Park Middle School was 1000+ students in grades 6, 7, 8
 - VP Steers worked in the math department and always looked to develop teachers confidence in teaching math
- EQOA results will be made public on September 20; in Math, Bowmore is significantly higher than the 50% requirement; we need to figure out a way to continue to keep the Math pedagogy current and relevant to our student's needs

Asks of administration: Are their guidance counselors available for the grade 8 transition into high school?

Recommendation:

- Guidance Counselor will be available for information night for parents in this transitional phase later in October; the guidance counselor is Susan Dominica (sp?) who will be at Bowmore on Mondays & Wednesdays – all day one day and half the other

Fundraising Update

QSP Fundraising Update (Jody & Jenn)

- Background:
 - Provide you with products you can sell
 - This fundraiser has the highest margin of our fundraisers, however, profits have gone down slightly and QSP at Bowmore has only focused on the magazine segment recently
- Plan is to shift focus of QSP to be more than just magazines; for instance gift wrap, tchotchkes, and gardening items
- Important to sell items within our Bowmore community that are relevant to our children's environment and so the it helps teach the kids about profits & loss
- Goal for QSP is to reach 25K in sales, which is ~5K in net sales for us
- Planned activities to support QSP:
 - Pajama day on Oct 5th plus hot chocolate day with mugs available for purchase fundraiser
 - Thank you wall for all of the participants of the fundraiser
 - Class with the highest sales will win a Pool Party in the dark
 - Booklets will go out again with a big push to digital (online purchases)
 - Despite the campaign being a very small window, like Mabel's Labels, you can use the Bowmore code any time you purchase from QSP for funds to be allocated to Bowmore

Pizza Lunch Update (Fiona & Elizabeth)

- Pizza lunches raise approximately 11 – 12K / year for our Bowmore community
- The plan is to increase number of Pizza lunches for the year; approximately every three weeks, which is approximately 10x/year
- Order forms will be sent out early next week

- May move to a cashless program for school council

Subway Lunch Update

- TBD
- Subway lunches are far more complex to execute

Book Fair: Sept 25 – 29

- Will run from 9-4pm (Monday – Friday); note Thursday will be extended 9 – 6pm
- Come down to see the book fair and drawing contest
- Note that Book Fair success generates ~11K in sales; funds go directly to the school/library
- Older students help with the Book Fair

Ask: Scholastic goes to school/library as well as Book Fair. What is the better choice to help the school?

Answer: Both Book Fair & Scholastics books generate good money for the school

Direct Donation Program (DDP) Update

Background:

- Lori Sears had been the fundraising chair for 3 years (started in 2015)
- Lori started the direct donation program and partnered with Monica Curtis for developing & designing a brochure with a donation envelope, including tax receipt and explanation of where the funds would go
- \$4700 was raised with this option
- ~57% of donations were for elementary, ~16% of donations were for senior grades, ~ 19% of donations were for grade 8s

Highlights:

- Oct 2, 2017 will launch electronic version of DDP so the Bowmore community can donate online
- Communication will be sent out Sunday, October 1; then the brochure (non-electronic version) will be sent home with the students on Monday, October 2
- Please note: DDP only runs the month of October

Bowmore Rocks

- Event is slated for 2018 and is a parent / community thematic social usually taking place at the Legion on Coxwell / Gerrard

- Lori, Vivianne and Melanie have been the primes for this event in the past and the torch has been passed along to a new trio: Lyndsey, Andrea and Sara
- Date is TBD but likely April timeframe

Spirit Wear

- there has been sample sizing that was brought into the school for parents to make an informed decision about sizing
- variety of items and clothes available for purchase
- Bowmore School Council will preorder the tote, traveler mugs and hoping to overlap with the Book Fair
- Orders will also be taken on Thursday, September 28 (Curriculum Night)
- Sizing chart is not available because we have a variety of brands being used to support our Bowmore merchandise
- Plan is to look to expand the variety of clothes available in time to come to keep people interested in purchasing the swag
- November/December the plan is to have toques available to purchase

Volunteering

If any parents or members of the Bowmore community are interested in volunteering in any capacity for the school, please email:

bowmorecs@gmail.com

New Business

Make It Fair (or Maker Fair?)

- This is a parent/community volunteer community event that supports makers; school is opened up to the community on a Saturday
- 650 people (last time we had the event) came through the school to see the various tables
- Andrew Duff would like to prime the event and bring it back for April 2018

Leah Jarvis (Bowmore School Rep/Teacher)

- Thank you to the Bowmore School Council; we have improvements in our school as a direct result to the work, effort and funds that Bowmore School Council is able to provide
- Proposes three projects:
 - 1) **Beautifying our washrooms projects:**
 - Start with the girls club
 - Potentially have the washrooms repainted with inspirational quotes

- Will be proposing this project to look to secure funds to support
- 2) **Junior Division wants to use kitchen:**
- Junior classes are looking to expand their knowledge base and experience in cooking
 - Grades 4 – 6 would be the target group
 - Would cook week by week based on a developed menu
- 3) **Purchase Classroom Fans Proposal:**
- In order to support classrooms in varying temperatures a request for new fans is going to be made
 - An inventory will be taken first of the current fans that are around and in working order
 - ~ 2016 was the last inventory taken

Recommendation: have a callout on Facebook for fans that families have available to donate to the school.

Lice Check Discussion:

- The following items are available to help combat the Lice concerns in the school:
 - Comb deterrent is available for purchase through the school \$25 cash vs. \$32 on Nitwits site
 - Spray deterrent is available for purchase through the school for \$25 cash

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm on Tuesday, September 19, 2017

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 @ Bowmore Public School @ 6pm