

BOWMORE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – September 24, 2015

Attendees: Michelle Aarts, Stephanie Simmons, Elizabeth Grundon, Jennifer Cloke-Campbell, Ruth Lee, Andrew Duff, Shelly Baboolall, Kristen Stinchcombe, Paul Wernick, Nancy Botelho, Shannon Williamson, Martin Haardt, Jennifer Petursson, Sarah Cabott, Ryan Naidoo, Lori McKay, Andrea Moore, Sarah Kelar, Carrie Moody, Lyndsey Camps, Colin Davis, Heather Davis, Michele Rice, Joanna Karidis, Emily Appleby-Barr, Cheryl Ball, Christine Rucheau, Andrea Dunsmuir, Andrea Brown, Sarah Easterbrook, Bianca Fetros, Jonathan Fetros, Marty McLaughlin, Sabrina Michenzi, Tasha Cullen, Sarah Kelar, Kristin Broadhead, Shaileen Casimiro, Kim Jensen, Andrew Duff, Karin Sildam Eaton, Kyle Couch, Karina Koehn, Alana Pointer, Nosh Dinshaw, Anjali Misra, Jennifer Hermanson, Jessica Campbell, Kashmera Seif, Saara Mortson, Lesley Van Wynsbeyle, Abby Smallwood, Peter Pukitis, Dita Petrova, Muling Chung, Mercedes Lee, Cindy Summerfeldt, Fiona Luck, Crystal Eagles Hagan, Alexis Jennings, Adrian Perpaul, Jesse Clarke, Lori Sears-Malik, Beth Ward

Agenda Item	Decision/Action Taken	Speaker/ Person(s) Responsible
1) Review of Agenda Call for New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to parents • Introductions of the co-chairs 	Elizabeth Grundon Viviana Kohon
2) Approval of Minutes from May 2015 meeting	Approved. Nancy Botelho, Ruth Lee.	
3) Principal's Report	<p>Principal McKay expressed thanks to parents who have helped with information dissemination lately.</p> <p>1. Classroom Reorganization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the 2015 Classroom Organization (see attached). Advised that TDSB makes plans in December of each year to figure out projected numbers for the next year (considerations include budget, teachers, support staff) – but the situation has changed considerably for Bowmore since the projected numbers were issued; • The changes that have occurred with respect to the Bowmore community include French immersion, increase in families with school aged children moving into the area, etc. As such, some classes have large numbers of students. Where caps cannot be met, the TDSB can grant exemptions. • Principal McKay briefly described the process that needs to be followed when classes are reorganized (who needs to be informed), matters that complicate it, how certain issues are solved, impacts; • Principal McKay identified the three groups of questions that parents have raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ transition (class lists have been finished today, enables the school to speak to students and parents), ○ selection process (consultative process, takes time, impossible to place everyone where they want to be, 	Principal McKay

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	<p>everyone has a legitimate story, but a decision has to be made); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ facilities (the work that is being done to the downstairs room was described, large room, lots of opportunity) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The new staff members that need to be hired were described (French immersion, FDK and Grade 1) <p>2. Work to Rule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● primary focus is safety of students; ● want a healthy atmosphere in the school and an unfractured relationship; teachers are working with her; ● money collection for the welcome package could not be done – safety forms were the most important focus, privacy issues related to the forms, so parent helpers have been collecting the forms in bins, but not processing them; ● Wynne Wednesdays no extracurricular activities; ● labour issues could reach Stage IV which means rotating one day strikes; ● postponements: Curriculum Night is postponed, Terry Fox may be postponed, QSP and fundraising also impacted; <p>3. Home EC Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● room has been stripped, countertops have been replaced, will be fully functioning this year; ● parents have asked to get involved; ● there will be a grand opening of the room when ready; <p>4. Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FDK & French immersion retrofit – one room did not get finished (items for the room are being delivered now); ● gym in the north building has had to be divided by a moveable wall to house more classes; ● windows in the north building will be replaced/upgraded; ● pool filtration system will be upgraded; <p>5. Parents Reaching Out Grant</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bowmore qualified and will receive money from the Ministry of Education;• Arts Express will hold workshops to help manage shyness, stress, and anxiety with a focus on presence, patience and perspective;• information and requests for assistance will be distributed later in the year. <p>6. IT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IT plan was communicated last year;• School is ahead of the 3 year plan. All Kindergarten teachers wanted iPads (for assessment and evaluation), grade one and two teachers did as well;<ul style="list-style-type: none">• next step will be to work to get ipads in certain classrooms on stands for centres;• last year school acquired a cart of 30 laptops for the 4, 5,6 classes. The school plans to purchase a second cart this year for the intermediate school.• Plan for this year also includes acquiring a new computer for each classroom; <p>Questions/Comments:</p> <p>Q. Concern was raised by one attendee about the fact that the junior numbers continue to remain high and the intermediate numbers are low.</p> <p>- decided not to have a 6/7 split in consultation with the teacher</p> <p>- 25 students are in the home school program (these numbers are shown)</p> <p>Q. One attendee complained that he was able to enter the school during school hours and walk around, enter a washroom without being questioned by staff. He has previously raised this with school administration.</p> <p>Principal McKay acknowledged the concern and agreed that the school is not where it needs to be and they are working to address this - but communicated that there were complicating factors like daycare parents needing to access space to drop off/pick up and the fact that the building is on a carded system</p>	
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	<p>and the day that the parent got into the building, the system was down. The parent communicated that the basement classroom was a concern because there was no foot traffic.</p> <p>Q. One attendee raised a concern about lead paint and asbestos. Principal McKay advised that the Health and Safety advisors have been in to check the ventilation. The school has a process to deal with safety. The Caring and Safe Schools Committee is involved in those matters. A parent asked to see copies of the safety/air quality reports.</p> <p>Q. One attendee expressed concern about the kindergarten room being ready for the upcoming Monday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q. An attendee asked about the leased space in the building occupied by before/after care and daycare. Principal McKay communicated what she understood re the term of the lease(s). Impacts of removing the daycare from the community need to be considered. • Q. Another attendee presented a redistribution of the student numbers possibility (assume no basement space, offer kids a space in French immersion, consider a SK/Grade 1 split, etc.) to make the point that in the event that issues arise (like class breakdowns/reorganizations), in particular in the context of the need to move some kindergarten students into the basement space, parents should receive more notice and possibly an opportunity to help find the solution; • Q. Another attendee advised that we should be writing to the Ministry, TDSB, Superintendent. Parents/guardians need to take a stand on these issues. Best option is to start writing letters. • Q. One attendee asked whether a separate meeting for the parents of the students impacted by the kindergarten room in the basement could be held. 	
<p>4) Treasurer’s Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • budget presented; • envelope/folder system for requesting cheques described. Please see the website for details. • concern raised about the spirit wear number presented. Correction possibly required. 	<p>Martin Haardt</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E. Grundon advised that we are in a fundraising hold. Typically the next meeting is a voting meeting. We will do our best. carnival numbers were explained due to the postponement of last year's carnival. 	
5) Code of Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Code of Conduct, which is the result of work and feedback from last year, is in the School Agenda. Encouraged attendees to read it and have conversations about it. The document was revisited to ensure that it reflects the community and to turn it into a positive document/tool. 	Ryan Naidoo
6) Fundraising Update	<p>Bowmore Direct Donation Pilot Project (Lori Sears-Malik)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> direct donation initiative described on hold pending resolution of the labour issues. funding will help enrichment of all students <p>QSP (Jennifer Hermanson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QSP fundraiser would proceed online <p>Pizza and Subway Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pizza lunch on hold until resolution of the labour issue. <p>Movie Night – October 23, permit pending.</p> <p>Lego Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more information will be shared at a later date <p>Scholastic Book Fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on hold pending resolution of the labour issues. 	
7) Council Nominations Forms	Forms can still be submitted until September 25, 2015	
8) New Business Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteering more than 3 times – police check required and process described including the particular requirements (page size, form completion). Bowmore has a Facebook page. Next Meeting: October 14 	
9) Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	