

Bowmore School Council Meeting November 22, 2017
Minutes

Proposal for Snack Program Committee

Two parents proposed a new committee to focus on and strengthen the snack program at Bowmore. The committee will include students, staff, and parents. The committee's work will include planning the menu, sharing the menu and other information, promoting healthy eating, and fundraising.

Representatives from the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS), the organization that coordinates the snack/student nutrition program for the TDSB, how the program is funded. They explained that there is more emphasis on healthy foods as connected to wellness.

Attendees' responses seemed favourable to the proposal to strike a committee overall. A few parents suggested that committee revise the forms that are sent to parents, and another parent asked that the committee consider packaging and waste.

Principal's Updates

Principal Groves welcomed guests from Crescenttown PS (VP and new School Council Chair) to the meeting. She expressed thanks to Bowmore parents for their support, feedback, and patience with the multiple lock-downs in the school in the past month.

VP Steerers presented Bowmore's EQAO results for 2016-2017 (available online). A parent asked how much weight is given to writing in a math question when tests are scored and whether there is consideration given to the clarity and wording of the questions.

This school year Bowmore's priorities and initiatives related to Literacy and Numeracy include:

- Early Years Reading Intervention
- Emphasis on guided reading in primary level
- Collaborative inquiry with SAO
- Teacher leads in Mathematics

EQAO testing dates for this 2017-2018 year:

- Grade 6 May 23-25, 2018
- Grade 3 May 28-30, 2018
- Parent information night in April 2018

Bowmore's Budget 2017-2018

\$162 899 – amount is available on TDSB website. Some money must be spent in specific areas. The remaining funds are allocated by school budget committee. Allocated expenses include:

- Improved Wifi access; grant funds are being sought to cover the costs.

- Chrome books
- Document cameras for all classrooms
- Also hoping to improve technology in library,
- Love of Literacy intervention kits
- \$5000 to new kindergarten classes
- \$3000 for math manipulative – hoping to top up this amount with division allocations
- Upgrades to phys ed equipment (mainly for safety reasons)
- \$20 000 donated to outdoor learning space for FDK – proposal submitted to approve outdoor learning space, including peace circle
- Student Success budget line – funds used to help kids transition to high school and into middle school

Facility notes:

Solar panels are being installed

New windows going into the Senior building

New/improved stairwell attached to daycare

Aiming to improve facility accessibility– looking for way to link buildings

Holiday concerts:

December 7 at 7 pm – intermediate concert

December 14

5-5:30 for kindergarten performance – junior concert to follow

Discussion about how much time to leave between concerts – consensus is half an hour

Musical *Into the Woods Junior* May 8, 9 and 10, 2018

Bins for skate donations will be set up in the hallway.

Student Council is being established. Hoping to have them involved in leadership capacities in the school.

Two bike racks will be going in –see Talcia for details

Parent requested for soap and paper towels for the bathroom.

New School Council Project/Proposal Form

Focus groups will be held to gather information about school council's past and (possible) future activities, fundraising, and other initiatives

Proposal form for a new School Council initiative will be on School Council website – once submitted, the applicant must wait for response before moving forward

Goals of form – to help manage time and budgets

Proposed Fundraisers

Maker Fair (includes community groups, vendors, Maker Fair organization, student groups. Run as cost-recovery but some money is collected from parents and charged to vendors) and Bowmore Rocks proposed as fundraisers. Discussion about how/whether to report what funds raised through these events will go to. Chairs prefer to see the Maker Fair as a community engagement event – yet since it does raise money Council is required to report where any funds raised will be spent.
Bowmore Rocks will be April 14, 2018

School Council Bylaws – report from By-laws Committee

Please see attachments (get from Michelle Aarts)

There are problems with current by-laws: some bylaws contradict provincial regulations. Other required bylaws are missing. Current Code of Ethics is okay.

Motion: to start fresh with a bylaw template with regulations 612/00 and 278/01

Motion: to determine by consensus the number of elected parent members of council

Motions were passed.

Discussion about the number of parents that should be elected to Council.
25 was determined to be the maximum number of elected parents on BSC.

Financial Report

Updated reimbursement and cash counting forms on School Council website
Fundraising Process and Procedure Guide is on School Council website

Note: Banking fees are higher than usual due to bounced cheques.
Budget is posted online

MusiCounts Grant (\$10 000)

Grant to support expanded instrumental music program was submitted by Susanna Molinolo on behalf of Council.

Lunch Room

Parent raised concern about child not eating lunch – asked for discussion on ways to address this issue.

Administrators suggested they may be able to apply for another lunch room

Other proposed ideas: rotation, student helpers, opening sensory room

Admin willing to look at whether parents could volunteer in the lunch room but there may be concerns with other agreements.

Ms. Jarvis's Report

All junior classes cooked a meal. Thank you to Council for funding. Junior divisions want to keep doing it.

Bathroom beautification project underway.

Multicultural Potluck: January 25, 2018

May have 2 seating this year with performance in between seatings.
Organizers would like to solicit prize donations and food donations; they are seeking volunteers to help solicit donations.

Direct Donation Program

Earned \$2900 – lower than expected – may be due to competing requests for money that came out at the same time.

Other Business

Jennifer H. (parent) discussed possible programs (to be paid for by parents) she'd like to bring to administration's attention. She asked if anyone had concerns about her doing so. None were raised.

There is also a karate group who is interested in running programs at lunch – may send money back to the school.

PIAC

Board advocating for education development funds. Since TDSB has vacancies in some schools it doesn't currently qualify. The TDSB will lobby province to have access to money since central corridor of Toronto does not have any vacancies.

Meeting adjourned.