

BOWMORE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date | time February 28, 2018 @ 6:04pm | *Meeting called to order by* Lyndsey Camps

In Attendance:

Lyndsey Camps, Andrea Maugham, Jenni Cathcart, Carrie Moody, Jenn Engels, Ruth Lee, Jen Cloke-Campbell, Sara Kelar, Andrea Ackery-Moore, Jennifer Petursson, Elizabeth Grundon, Erica Fyvie, Marike Emery, Koreena Audette, Michaela Jeffs, Susana Molinolo, MaryCarmen Lara-Villanueva, Shelly Baboolall, Angie Winstl, Nancy Botelho, Andrew Duff

Approval of Minutes:

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

- Jenni Cathcart

School needs analysis

Jenni Cathcart is helping with a school needs analysis. Starting with feedback sessions, responses by email. This will be followed by parent sessions, teacher sessions. When all the data is collected, it will be turned into a survey. Then survey goes to the school community as a whole.

As a side note, council members are requested to start sending project proposal forms in or it won't go on the spending list for next year. The co-chairs will be putting a 2-year spending plan in place for this spring, so they can vote on it in June instead of September.

ASK: Can we get the school improvement plan from Principal Groves? ANSWER: Yes that will be available.

Principal's Report (Principal Heather Groves & Vice-Principal Talcia Richards)

- **Staffing** – Looking for a parent representative to sit on staffing committee. Look at staffing proposals, as administration decides what are the ideal number and combination of students per grade. Especially useful to parents from feeder schools, who might want to be involved, have a voice, helping children with transitioning. Additionally proposing that families know in advance where students are going for the next year; at least the room number. Email the council chairs about being a representative.
- **Professional Development Update** – for staff in the Intermediate division, professional development around gender-based violence has been initiated, supporting school with different strategies about boundary setting. Key areas – gender, race, sexuality, anything that could make someone feel targeted. Healthy Relationships – has been shared with teachers to talk about boundaries, welcoming classroom environment. PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) around math and literacy, representatives have already worked intensively with teachers around math, just starting on the second round. Family literacy night was held, teaching strategies at home to support literacy, particularly by Grade 1.
- **Student Leadership** – The administration is committed to enhancing student leadership at the school; new initiatives are the morning announcement crew, including the acknowledgement of Native Peoples, now looking to create an end of day announcement to get students excited about the next day. Currently using Grades 7 and 8 but could go to Grade 6 or even younger. Also looking at ambassador group for newcomers to the school. Considering student leaders helping in the office, grade 6 and up.
- **Student nutrition program** – Shaileen Casimiro and Jody Sadofsky have continued to make great contributions. Naseem, the coordinator has moved to another region. Still trying to reduce waste, more eco-friendly options, in addition to optimal nutrition. Administration has just applied for next year's grant including 2 days a week for a lunch program, and also a breakfast program. Kindergarten program starting in the fall. Council will be updating forms for welcome package for next fall.

- **Grade 8 Graduation planning** – Grade 8 parents (Jen and Sarah) have done research into enhancing the event, including the cost to look at another venue. Typically graduation ceremony at Monarch Park, then later back to the school for a dance. Looking to instead go to Legion for a dance, bringing in refreshment; possibly hiring a DJ, school wants to support and decorate the space. Anticipated cost of \$30 might make it prohibitive for some families. Venue could tweak the menu and scale it down. Community has indicated a willingness to defray costs for some students so that all can participate. Trying to get volunteers. Event requires teacher supervision. Lori and Joanne are the reps from council who are not at this meeting. Next steps are looking at fundraising and how to getting the Grade 8 students involved. Will invite Reece (student representative) and Charlotte (Teacher representative) to the next meeting.
- **Integrated model (Equity)** – teachers getting instruction to help them to support the Integrated Equity Framework (IEF) which aims to improve achievement and well-being for each and every student, while closing persistent achievement, opportunity and participation gaps for all.
- **Grade 7 and 8 lunch:** some feel 1 h 15 min too long for Grade 7-8's for lunch. The limited options of staying at school for the duration or leaving for the duration not working for all families but it becomes impossible to track a student's whereabouts if there are several options. A letter has gone out to Grade 7-8 parents asking for their input.
- **Facilities (painting)** – School was recently granted \$25,000 for interior painting upgrades. Need to prioritize the older building, particularly the hallways and some classrooms.
- **Safe and Caring Schools update** – supposed to have a committee, would love input from parents from all divisions. 3 times a year commitment for meetings covering topics like how can we do Lockdowns better, etc.
- **Archives / Anniversary** – 5 years until 100th anniversary. Archives available at another site, a museum in the basement of the First Nations building. Very experienced archivist is interested in connecting with us. Administration is looking to grow that committee.
- **Topics / guest speakers for future meetings** – Principal Groves is happy to support, if you have topics of interest, please bring them forward.

Multi-cultural Potluck Update (Jenni Cathcart)

Michelle Aarts, Shelley Baboolall and Jenni Cathcart were key organizers of the event. Good but not great attendance: about 150 people over the course of the night, a little lower than last year. Families had a great meal, stayed and did all the stations: henna, art project with the kids. A lot of diversity represented. Great staff support, especially Ms Groves, Mr. Overby, Mr Steers, Ms Cahill.

There is still some confusion within the community about when the Potluck is supposed to take place. Some suggestions for next year are trying a Multicultural Night that isn't a potluck. Incorporate the event into a full multicultural day at the school, teachers incorporating it into the programming. Different classes could celebrate a particular country. Might be a great event earlier in the year, a great way to get to know each other at the beginning of the year. More staff would have attended if it weren't report cards due that Friday. This year's organizers have a lot of documentation to guide future organizers.

Bowmore Rocks (Lyndsey/Andrea/Sarah)

- April 14. Theme is: Video Killed the Radio Star. There will be a Raffle, silent auction, if anyone knows anyone who can make donations, please have them contact the organizers. Tickets on sale early March. Face to face selling as well as online. \$20 per person. Lots of great prizes so far.

- Eco Team - Existing Council rep volunteer had to withdraw, looking for another volunteer to work on the Eco Team. 3 teachers and 1 school council rep. Teachers are Ferris, Mossman, Nahas.
- Looking for volunteer to write a Pro(Parents Reaching Out)Grant. This year money obtained is going to a Family Math night (tools and strategies at home to support learning), no date yet for that. This year's Progrant application is due June 5. Province puts out a list of the priority topics.
- Health and Wellness Committee – Starting with Teachers including Mr. Overby, topics will include healthy eating, exercise, family fitness night. Looking for a council rep or parent volunteer to join.

Dance-A-Thon Proposal

- Friends of Andrea's at other school do this initiative and raise a lot of money. Dance-a-Thon would last all day. Kids would cycle through by grade. Half hour for Kindergarten and one hour for the older grades. Donate a portion of funds to the Grade 8 graduation, rest goes to council. Funds would be raised through sponsorship (dollar amount from friends and family members) or else admission fee, but all kids could participate. Possibly in May.

New Business

- Carnival: **Friday June 15**, 2 people have volunteered to help, need 5 more to make a sub-committee: For the date of the carnival. Someone to run the Volunteer booth, Dream Basket and raffle booth, bake sale, freezie/beverage table, artistic tables – crafts, Michaela is doing sponsorships and permits, inflatables.

Make-It Fair – Andrew Duff

Taking place Saturday April 7, 11:00 AM -3:00 pm in the Senior Gym. Showcasing local makers. What's a Maker? Brain + Hands on + Heart = Makers. Knitting, pickle making, carpentry, if you're making it, they want to know about it. Join us: bowmoremakeitfair@gmail.com facebook.com/bowmoremakeitfair

Putting out call for Volunteers. A great opportunity for dads. Come and talk power tools!

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 on Wednesday, February 28, 2018.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 26th, 2018 at 6:00 pm, at Bowmore Public School