

BOWMORE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date | time April 26, 2018 @ 6:10pm | *Meeting called to order by* Andrea Maugham

In Attendance:

Lyndsey Camps, Andrea Maugham, Jenn Engels, Ruth Lee, Jennifer Cloke-Campbell, Susana Molinolo, Shelly Baboolall, Andrew Duff, Tina Da Silva, Kelsie Hernandez, Lesley Van Wynsbergh, Jody Sadofsky, Jenny Gauntlett, Lori Sears-Malik, Joanne Hunter Smith, Elizabeth Grundon, Jolane Folts

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were read from the February 2018 Bowmore School Council Meeting and approved by:

- o Susana Molinolo

Hot Lunch Pilot Program – Andrea Maugham

Beginning in mid-May to end of the school year, we will be using The Lunch Lady <http://thelunchlady.ca/> to begin a Hot Lunch Pilot program. Council will get \$0.25 back per lunch ordered. According to parents at other schools in the vicinity who also have Pizza Lunch, their Pizza Lunch orders are not adversely affected by this additional service. Allergies, gluten-free, lactose-free, egg-free, and diabetic needs can all be accommodated.

Feedback solicited as to whether Monday or Wednesday would be the best day to host the HLP - Wednesday got the vote.

Principal's Report - Heather Groves & Steve Steers

Staffing Update and School Organization 2018-2019 Vice-Principal Steers gave the Staffing Update. Changes include 2 more French Immersion classes than last year. Extended French spots have been offered to all 71 applicants, 62 thus far have accepted. The school is in no position to make offers to optional attendance applicants. This will have an impact on intermediates: don't know how many students will come from feeder schools. Trying to keep the intermediate numbers as small as possible, to 22/23 students. Gifted: three classes of 4/5's – new students fare better if they are paired with students who have already been involved in the program – a more welcoming model. Numbers in Gifted are changing daily. 6 classes – maximum 25 in a class.

School Repair List – Pleased about playground and sod irrigation system. Just finished a retrofit of all windows. Roof has been repaired; skylight blew off but has now been repaired. Solar panels are in process. New ventilation in place. Library will be a cooling area and will have air conditioning, new carpeting in there as well. Painting – we have received a \$40,000 upgrade and will be beginning soon.

Welcome To Kindergarten Night - June 14: An opportunity for families of new students to feel welcome in their new school environment. Students will be given bags with various school-related items to help them to get ready and excited for school.

Lunchroom Supervisor Job Opportunities - Bowmore is looking for a Lunchroom Supervisor (paid position). If anyone is interested in more information or would like to begin the application process, please contact Vice Principal Steve Steers at steve.steers@tdsb.on.ca. This is a great opportunity to get your start as a TDSB employee.

Graduation Plans and Year end Trip (Lori Sears-Malik) - Decorator hired; will be decorating the full gym. Cafeteria will have one section for games, another with seating and buffet table. Uplighting around the perimeter of the gym. 17-20 3-foot balloons, hanging silver tassels, 17 ft x 8ft tall photo booth. Lounge in the east wall – set up like a big living room. Slideshow overtop, all are encouraged to submit their photos. Looking to do a grad book instead of a yearbook: Art submissions, poetry submissions, photos, a letter from Heather, from Member of Parliament, and the valedictorian. With 141 graduating grade 8's, a cost of \$5.20 each seems feasible. Also looking to do fundraising for end-of-year overnight, as well as a substitute event for students who will not attend an overnight.

Parking And Crossing Guard Applications – Principal Groves introduced Council to Officer Brian Spade, who works with the school across a variety of topics. Parking continues to be an issue and he is out there raising awareness about parking infractions. He is also helping us to get a crossing guard; the application is in process and has gone back to the city. Officer Spade gives presentations to schools on social media, and does a lot of work with mental health. Anyone wishing to contact Officer Spade can reach him at brian.spade@torontopolice.on.ca.

Pro-Grant Math night – There will be a Jump2Math night - STEM focused, piggybacking on the Early Literacy night on May 17th.

Thank you – Principal Groves acknowledged all the hard work that went into a number of recent successful events: The Spelling Bee, Movie Nights and Bowmore Rocks. Andrew Duff gave a brief update on the Make-It-Fair, which had over 700 people come through in 3 hours, featuring 25 different activity tables, a raffle, and a cafeteria space where Student films were screened.

Health and Wellness Committee Update - Darren Overby

The Committee, made up of staff, administration, and parent volunteers, has the goal of supporting the community into becoming and staying healthy.

Guide: Foundations for a healthy School: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/foundations.html>

Bowmore is looking to get the Healthy Schools Certification, granted through OPHEA, Ontario Physical Health Education <https://www.ophea.net/healthy-schools-certification>. Focused on 6 Priority Health Topics: related topics:

1) Physical Activity, 2) Mental Health, 3) Healthy Eating, 4) Personal Safety and Injury Prevention, 5) Growth and Development, 6) Substance use, additions, and related behaviors.

Part of certification is assessing the needs of the student community. That assessment resulted in the following challenges and targets for:

ELEMENTARY: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, recess bullying, conflict, boredom, inactivity, lack of being engaged in safe and meaningful play. Some ways of addressing these needs include PALS and the Right to Play Programs. Increased support for DPA (Daily Physical Activity) delivery that can transfer into a more focused recess plan. Classroom DPA, Recess Equipment bags, DPA Lunch and Learn for Teachers and DPA Resource Collection.

SENIOR: GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT and MENTAL HEALTH. Bullying and intimidation – takes the form of gender-based violence, homophobia, body/fat shaming, racism.

Some actions to engage students on these topics include attending a Student Mental Health and Well Being Symposium on April 18th, as well as engagement with the Gay Straight Alliance club. Engaging Susan (Guidance Counsellor) and Zenobia into planning long-term action steps. Looking at next year, plan to invite specialists into classroom, parent nights, in order to look at the issues holistically – sleep specialists, online bullying, eating disorders, and if funds are needed a request will be sent through to school and parent council budgets.

Mental Health And Wellness Week May 7-11: Hosting a spirit week, bringing awareness to how we can make healthy choices and habits, because one's health directly affects academic and social performance. Posters will be put around the school – will get students involved, and teachers working with the different themes. Will also take advantage of School Wide Announcements to encourage Mindful Moments.

Each day will focus on an aspect of healthy living; all are encouraged to wear the associated colour of the day.

Monday May 7 - Healthy Thinking - Colour of the Day: Yellow

Tuesday May 8 - Healthy Eating - Colour of the Day: Green

Wednesday May 9 - Fitness - Colour of the Day: Red

Thursday May 10 - Healthy Relationships - Colour of the Day: White

Friday May 11 - Rest & Relaxation - Colour of the Day: Blue

Family Fitness Night on May 31 two sessions: Kindergarten 3:30 – 4:30, Grades 1-3 6:00 – 7:30. Different stations will allow children with their parent/guardians to try different activities, dance, yoga, fitness circuits, etc. Strongly encourage parental involvement and hoping for volunteers!

The Committee will be calling on Council to help with resource funding for various initiatives: equipment, supplies (e.g. the Buddy Bench where children looking for a safe space to find a buddy can go), as well as guest presenters.

Mr. Overby introduced us to Adam Benton who works with low-vision or blind Bowmore students. Adam's other area of specialization is Latin dance and he walked Council members through a number of steps!

Bowmore Rocks Update - Andrea and Lyndsey

The evening was a huge success; great turnout despite terrible weather. Exact total unavailable at this time, but between \$8000-\$9000 raised. The planning committee is already thinking up themes for next year's event.

Dance-a-Thon Proposal: Mini-Bowmore Rocks (Andrea)

Proposing a dance-a-thon for students, to raise money for grade 8 grad. Asking students to donate \$2, no one who wants to dance will be turned away. Trying to fit it into Mental Health and Wellness week - May 7-11.

School Council Survey - Andrea & Lyndsey

School Council Survey closes on Monday April 30th – please fill out and submit it. A reminder will be going out April 27th followed by a teacher survey in the next couple of weeks. The co-chairs will then be reviewing the data, along with submitted spending ideas; with that information they will put a spending plan together. Hoping to have put together a proposed budget by the June meeting as they want it signed off before the end of this year. Need as much collective feedback as possible. Urgently requesting suggestions through the Bowmore student council website forms: <https://bowmoresc.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/project-proposal-form.pdf> Spending ideas must be received by May 11th at bowmoresc.com or in the School Council mail slot.

ECO Team Update – Jen Cloke-Campbell

Eco Club is still collecting for the Bags2School program – diverting clothing from landfills and raising funds in the process. April 27th is the last day for it; funds raised will be used for the Garden.

Parent Workshop Suggestions – Lyndsey

Money has been set aside for parent workshops; to date no one has booked any workshops. Lyndsey solicited feedback from the group about potential topics: suggestions included: diversity, anxiety, mental health, conflict resolution, and Internet safety. Lyndsey will look into seeing if we can accommodate along these lines before the end of the year.

Read-A-Thon - Lyndsey and Andrea

Bowmore is holding a Read-a-thon this spring in lieu of a book fair. Although this is a fundraiser, it is also to encourage literacy at all reading levels. All funds raised will go toward technology in the library and other library needs. The plan is to bring the Book Fair back in the fall. Forms for the Read-A-Thon can be downloaded here: <https://bowmoresc.com/read-a-thon/>

Carnival Update - Andrea

Currently there is an issue whether or not a permit will be granted to use the field; should have an answer by Monday, April 30th. Coordinator Michaela Jeffs still very much needs volunteers to help out with the event on June 15th.

Approval of By-Laws – Lesley Van Wynsbergh

Lesley spoke on behalf of the By-Law Revision Committee – some areas of the existing By-Laws were in contravention of the legislation. The committee's work required mostly filling in areas, having the information on the proper forms, the code of ethics, social media area, changes to the elections process (incoming new parents in JK/SK classes won't be represented unless we do a fall election). A Motion to have the draft minutes approved was approved and seconded; the draft By-Laws will now move forward and be shared with the parent community.

Back to School Kickoff 2018-2019 – Andrea

The Co-Chairs applied successfully for Enbridge Community Event Services to take part in a Back to School event on the first Friday after school begins next fall: Friday September 7 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. We will be selling burgers and hotdogs for cost, there will be a Table for Council, a chance to sign up people for volunteering opportunities, and maybe even a Flash mob.

PRO-Grant 2018-2019 – Lyndsey

Council still requires a volunteer to help submit a PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant for this year – applications are due June 5th. Lesley Van Wynsbergh volunteered to take this on.

New Business

Snack Program – Jody Sadofsky reported that progress has been made to get healthier snacks in the program, with less waste and more fresh options. Volunteers are needed in the mornings after drop-off to help with cutting up fresh fruits and vegetables.

TDSB Parents as Partners conference – a free event, happening this weekend (April 30th), workshops around parent outreach, mental health, parents can sign up for up to 3 different panels.
<http://www.parentsaspartners.ca/>

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 on Thursday, April 26, 2018.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 6th 2018 at 6:00 PM at Bowmore Public School.