

# BOWMORE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date | time October 3, 2018 @ 6:08 pm | Meeting called to order by Lyndsey Camps

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## In Attendance:

Lyndsey Camps, Andrea Maugham, Jenn Engels, Shelley Baboolall, Leah Jarvis, Ashley McKay, Heather Groves, Michaela Jeffs, Talcia Richards, Brandi Zebrak, Anndrea Hughes, Graham Seater, Natalie Poissant, Elizabeth Grundon, Sarah Kellar, Kelsie Hernandez, Shelagh Smith, Andy McLeod, Susana Molinolo, Jennifer Cloke-Campbell, Ashley McKay, Corin Toporas, Heather Robson, Alexis Jennings, Christina Varga, Andrea Ackery-Moore, Alana Painter, Valia Reinsalu, Marycarmen Lara-Villanueva, Mohammed Haque, Dan Lock,

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## Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were read from the September 2018 Bowmore School Council Meeting by: Approved by Jen Cloke-Campbell, seconded by Michaela Jeffs.

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## Call for New Business:

Leah Jarvis – Kitchen update

Michaela Jeffs - Movie Night dates

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## Principal's Report: Heather Groves, Talcia Richards (VP)

Have appointed **chairs** to the different divisions – Ms. Rainselu is the Intermediate chair, Ms Jarvis is the Junior, Ms Varga is the Primary, and Mr. Seater is the Kindergarten chair. New office staff: Tina Zegas is temporary staff; hoping she will apply, Lillian Ozvald is permanent staff. Hoping to advocate for another additional part time staff person; when trying to reach the school it's often difficult to get through.

We have a new student success coach – Visha, who helps students in math and language to close the learning gap. Only two schools within our network of schools have a student success coach. It's great to have more experts supporting teaching and learning. Students are identified with our achievement reports when they are not meeting expectations. Using a co-teaching model: Collaborative inquiry – look for goals, co-planning, co-teaching, sharing, to see how they progress. Using EQAO results, OSR (Ontario Student Record) information, teachers are just completing CASI (*Comprehension Attitude Strategies Interests – standardized test for grades 4-8*). In compliance with an important TDSB policy, on PA day teachers will be doing compliance training, doing session with new learning coach, and discussing math strategies.

Principal Groves just met new Superintendent MaryJane McNamara, to start a conversation about our needs as a school. Our results in math have dipped, hence the assignment of our student success coach and learning coach. A lot of focus has been given to literacy - big purchase in the area of literary resources, including *LLI (Leveled Literacy Intervention* is a powerful, short-term intervention, that provides daily, intensive, small-group instruction, which supplements classroom literacy teaching) to help support emerging readers. Avail to K-3 teachers. 8-week implementation. We are also working with great parent volunteers and a reading coach. Trying to get a child's reading set up with parent at home. Have parents come in, be trained, so they can help support in the classroom. This is led by Stephen Dow, a retired teacher who helps to train volunteers.

Now we are definitely stepping it up for math. Purchased a new math program for K-3 – same publisher for English and French, terrific to have a bilingual continuum so we're all using the same terminology.

Ordered math diagnostics – hoping they will come in shortly, this will provide a baseline of where students are and where they should be.

**Hockey team** – VP Parsons was unable to attend, so Heather did not have exact details. Have put out a call for interested students; some parent volunteers have already stepped up to help coach. VP Parsons will be getting more info out to parents. Something in place by end of October/November. If kids can't afford the gear – there will be equity. 4-6 group and a 7-8 group; co-ed and different ages playing; will be skills based. There's a new ice master lane on Bowmore road. Skating throughout the season.

**Bathroom procedures** – This continues to be an area where kids are off-track. Some plans to tighten up bathroom procedures, meeting shortly to discuss how to improve supervision – possibly tracking who's going at what time. Ongoing vandalism means that the school is continually replacing soap dispensers. Recent ones have been stolen.

**New kindergarten class** – This year the board mandated a reorganization of the Kindergarten classes. Had to create a new JK class. Calls made to JK parents who also received a letter. Difficulty came with finding a space for that class. Had planned to use a former JK room in the basement, and were told that because it is a shared space with daycare, licensing for all the daycare would be put on hold if they were sharing. It's a complex situation involving different licensing requirements; a similar room in the basement that currently houses SK FI and shares with daycare was grandfathered in, rules from the past. The solution was to put the new 15-child JK class in the very large room in the basement with the SK FI class. Examined the idea of two SK FI groups in there but it would be too large, noisy, and disruptive. Still looking to possibly put the JK class in another setting. Superintendent is very positive and open to possibilities; Early Years coordinator is coming to see the spaces. Sharing space is always challenging for teachers, daycare, expanding the daycare to accommodate 180 people on the waiting list. Competing needs have to be balanced. ASK – Was there a consideration to putting JK in with other JK kids? ANSWER: Room 1 in the basement was seen as the best room because it is so much larger than other classrooms. Actively pursuing access to that other basement space. ASK: Is there a commitment in other parts of the school to French culture? ANSWER: Yes. When we have an assembly – a standard English class will do a presentation in English while an FI class will do it in French. All of us will do our Prologue Theatre performances together – we have a bilingual presentation of music and singing, half in English half in French. First year we had Character Assembly, which was bilingual. We're all conscious of it and we're growing. Students will shortly have access to a French coach who will be in our school.

**Grade 7 Trip** – Feedback about trip being costly at \$300 per student. Camp Wahanowin – only 4 destinations approved by the board at the start of the year. Couldn't get the approval in time and had to put the trip on hold and. It is scheduled for November now, which will give students time to do some fundraising. Hoping to do a Grades 7-8 autumn dance and proceeds go towards their trip. It's not inclusive of K-6 kids. A few dances this year for 7-8's for the grade 8 end of year trip. ASK: What happens to cheques already sent in to reserve a space? ANSWER: They are in the safe.

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## Introduce new School Council members

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Co-chairs - Andrea Maugham and Lyndsey Camps

Treasurer - Alexis Jennings

Secretary - Jenn Engels Co-Secretary - Brandi Zebrak

ECO Lead - Jen Cloke-Campbell

Volunteer Coordinator – Ashley McKay

Health And Wellness Lead – Shaileen Casimiro

Caring and Safe Schools Lead – Mohammed Haque

Ward 16 Representative - Jen Peterson

Ward 32 Representative – Dan Lock

Communications Team - Ruth Lee, Brandy Zebrak, Shannon Akman, Kelsie Hernandez

Classroom Rep - Kelsie Hernandez

Diversity and Inclusion co-leads – Marycarmen Lara-Villanueva, Darryl Gershater

Fundraising Team leads – Elizabeth Grundon & Fiona Luck (Pizza Lunch) Sarah Mavrou, Andrea Maugham, Lyndsey Camps – (Bowmore Rocks)

Community Engagement – Michaela Jeffs (Movie Night Coordinator), Heather Robson (Make-It Fair Lead)

School Programs – Sarah Mavrou (Lice check), Alexis Jennings (Lego Club)

Elections Lead (Outgoing) – Rebecca Collier Doyle

Grant-writing Leads – Susana Molinolo and Jolane Folts

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## Fundraising – donations / sponsorships

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Trying to get things more centralized. Social worker creating an in-need list, so kids all kids have access to things like spirit wear, pizza lunch. Centralize with Community Engagement and Fundraising programs. Creating an online form/chart – to say who we're approaching for fundraising, etc. Putting together a list to approach for sponsors. Difficulties in the past when both Carnival and Bowmore Rocks going after the same businesses for auction donations. Looking to get together a team that will start this kind of fundraising initiative. No one leading the fundraising all together – if it's team leads that what we'll do, but ideally would like someone who wants to take on Fundraising as a whole. Also want to tap into parents who are connected – working in companies who could help us, asking for their sponsorship. Gold/Silver/Bronze levels of sponsorship, money available for tax write-off. ASK: I heard that companies could not sponsor, within TDSB couldn't have sponsorship tied to schools. ANSWER: Difference between a donation and a sponsorship. Co-chairs will look in to that to confirm.

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## ECO update

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Composting and green bin initiative: Bowmore is approved; we will be delivered some kind of organic cart in 2-3 weeks. We have been down this road in 2013 – back then the issue was with who was going to take out compost/green bins – city wasn't going coming to pick it up.

There will be a Textile drive for Bag to School (<http://www.bag2schoolfundraising.com/#ride-to-live-1>) the last week of October (Oct 22-26); collection from 8-9 in the morning of October 29<sup>th</sup>. First Eco Club meetings have been held. Looking at a water bottle refill station – have to consult with TDSB. ASK: is the drive for gently used clothes? ANSWER: No, they will take absolutely anything. Trying to divert old/stained/torn clothes from landfills. For kids interested in joining, see Ms Mossman or Mme Nahas. Generally for grades 2-4, but will take interested kids outside that age.

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## Additional Lunch Programs

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Great response on the online system. 400 students that are registered. Half have only done the first session – deadline is Friday October 5<sup>th</sup>. Will still accept manual after that. Pizza lunch ten times a year; hot lunches on Wednesdays. There is a great interest in lunch programs. We are considering what if we did another day of lunch? Anyone interested in heading it up? Need an adult to monitor the student volunteers for Pizza Day. Garbages need to be better labeled for pizza lunch day.

Dan Lock mentioned Pita Pit as another option that they have tried successfully at Norway PS. Elizabeth: Subway had its challenges, but people like the option. Using the online ordering system now in place would make it very helpful. Dan is willing to jump on board and help out. If we can get more volunteers for that we'll look to do that.

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## Snack Program update - Lyndsey

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Start date now November 1; still haven't collected all forms from welcome packages (only 50%). Also need to get an allergy list from the office. Payment opportunity will come later this year or early next year. Senior school snack bins delivered this year. Volunteer list – partially created – need commitment from more volunteers. Primary hold-up is they can't begin until they have forms from office.

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## Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser - Andrea

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We had one on the calendar for November; probably pushing it until January/February so Grades 7's and 8's can do a fundraiser for their class trip.

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## Police Record Checks Process - Lyndsey

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If you're volunteering regularly at the school (Snack Program, etc) you need to get a police record check done. Forms can be obtained from the office, if you have had one done already still need to have it renewed annually.

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## Library, Media, digital literacy - Tech and Robotics spending plans – Valia Reinsalu

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Ms. Reinsalu is the new Intermediate chair of the school. Recognizes there might be some disparities in tech needs of student. School is matching \$10,000 a year with school council. Recently staff was given a survey to examine what technology they used and what needs to be in the kids' hands. Not every classroom, division, has the same access. Did an order in September – spent \$15,000 of a total of \$20,000. Allowed the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of south school access to iPads, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor access to chrome books. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor junior – access to chrome books, and data projectors – this projects information with a larger font, multi media applications; wherever you're sitting in the class you can see it. Currently onboarding to get students onto functions of G-suite. 90 of 125 responses so far. Some interesting findings include: 12.3% of students don't have Internet access at home, 28.1% don't have their own computer. We can't assume they have access at home. Those skills are critically important: the school needs technology. 15 chrome books, 26 laptops, 8 desktops. We don't expect to be one-to-one, more iPads and access to 20 more chrome books. Question posed to students: if you could learn anything about tech that has nothing to do with school, it would be to make a game, website, animation, python.

Coding opportunities – New **First Lego League Junior** team (6-9 year old) – Fridays. This will be in conjunction with **First Lego League** team (grade 4-6) club – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday room 101

(From Wikipedia: **FIRST LEGO League (FLL)** is an international competition<sup>[1]</sup> organized by **FIRST** for elementary and middle school students (ages 9–14 in the United States and Canada, 9–16 elsewhere).

Each year in August,<sup>[2]</sup> FIRST LEGO League introduces a scientific and real-world challenge for teams to focus and research on.<sup>[3]</sup> The robotics part of the competition involves designing and programming **LEGO Mindstorms** robots to complete tasks. The students work out solutions to the various problems they are given and then meet for regional tournaments to share their knowledge, compare ideas, and display their robots.

FIRST LEGO League is a partnership between **FIRST** and the **LEGO Group**. It also has a scaled-down robotics program for children ages 6–9 called **FIRST Lego League Jr.**)

First Lego League Intermediate team (grades 7-8) club Tuesday / Thursday room 101. They are also learning Ozobot, code based on colour coding.

Need volunteers to help those two clubs. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> is the competition.

ASK: What will be done for kids who don't have access – what kind of support will they have? ANSWER: There is a Student tech lead. They will also be doing a digital yearbook, incorporating the curriculum to send home to parents. None of this is homework that is online. If they don't have access online they can bring that home, and can have extra time in class to complete. Program in Parkdale – train your grandparent – leadership roles where the students teach seniors how to navigate an iPad. Most kids in Junior – know how to access school websites from home.

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## Health & Wellness update – Leah Jarvis

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Reporting on behalf of Darren Overby. The Health and Wellness committee has 8-10 teachers representing. Great plan for this year – getting the healthy schools certification, approving the action plan in place. There are two main areas of focus:

- Kindergarten to Grade 5, ensuring they get daily physical activity (DPA).
- Grades 6-8, Mental health

Parent council has invested funds for Rocks and Rings (<https://www.curling.ca/about-the-sport-of-curling/getting-started-in-curling/rocks-rings/>) – learning how to curl in November. Youth Wellness Network to come to Grades 6-8, student wellness committee. 3 half-day sessions – training and running weekly meetings. Several initiatives including mindful minutes during morning announcements, art installations, understanding your feelings.

Staff training – this Friday. All staff having an hour-long workshop November 6<sup>th</sup>. All encompassing program for the whole community working towards wellness.

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## New Business

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Leah Jarvis - **Home Ec kitchen** – Two teachers and one parent overseeing. The parent has made an inventory of everything there – and what’s needed. Budget has been allocated from council. Have put in a proposal to get each kitchen more equipped. Classes from the junior division will be spending a half-day, all cooking the same meal, for a total of 6 days. Ms. Vargas agreed the kitchen badly needs some replenishing – including an oven, and a fridge. Looking into seeing if we can get a donation? TDSB likes us to use their vendors, and there is also an insurance factor. Someone offered a microwave for the lunchroom, again that has to be verified.

Michaela Jeffs - **Movie night** – Upcoming dates are: **October 26, November 23, January 25, February 22**. In the Junior Gym. Traditionally G or PG movie. Newer movies tend get a better response. Hotel Transylvania 3. Incredibles 2. Looking at potentially having a bake sale too. Pizza, popcorn, juicebox. Donation at the door: \$2. Option to dress up in costumes, come as superhero. Vision itinerant teacher has asked for descriptive video, this will become part of the programming. 6:30 start time / 6:00 arrival time. Out by 8 pm. Require volunteers for each movie night. Easy volunteer hours for High School students.

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### Meeting Adjourned

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Meeting adjourned at 7:57 on Wednesday, October 3, 2018.

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### Next Meeting

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Monday November 19, 2018 at 6:00 PM.