

BOWMORE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date | time April 9, 2019 @ 6:00 pm | *Meeting called to order by* Lyndsey Camps

In Attendance:

Lyndsey Camps, Andrea Maugham, Angie Winstl-Ackland, Tova Lieff, Mary Clarke, Karyn Rosson, Nancy Bothelo, Sarah Kelar, Brandi Zebrak, Amber Bielecky, Koreena Audette, Christina Toperas, Natalie Poissant, Alexis Jennings, Lisa Perelman, David Camps, Mercedes Lee, Rebecca Doyle, Nadine Dunk, Meghan Church, Lynn Wilkins, Jocelyne DeRomana, Becky Wallace, Shelagh Smith, Karen Cato, Kirsty Pascoe, Elizabeth Grundon, Michaela Jeffs, Leah Jarvis, Heather Robson, Jennifer Cloke-Campbell, Amanda McFarlane.

Indigenous Acknowledgment:

Acknowledgement offered by Talcia Richards.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were read from the January 2019 Bowmore School Council Meeting by: Approved by Michaela Jeffs, seconded by Jennifer Cloke-Campbell.

Call for New Business:

N/A

Letters to TDSB and Ministry of Education

Becky Wallace is in attendance this evening to address the recent changes to education funding. The impacts are as follows:

- Increased class sizes in grades 4-12 (average from 22 to 28); without caps, this can have a huge impact
- Still potential for impact to full day kindergarten
- Have not renewed commitment to priorities fund (can impact funding to students with special needs)

Parent councils in the city have been passing official resolutions to send letters to the Minister of Education and letters of support to the staff of their schools.

The letters were read aloud and a vote passed to pass a resolution that the letters be sent on behalf of the Bowmore School Council, with the MPP and school trustee copied.

Eco Team Update

Jennifer Cloke-Campbell provided an update on behalf of the Eco Team.

- Green bins are now being used.
- The textile drive is coming up April 22 – 26
- The Eco club is doing a school wide clean up April 26

The Eco team would like to table a concern about amount of waste used by Lunch Lady. On average, 180 students use the Lunch Lady each week. Discussion followed about potential options and suggestions.

- Can we eliminate the paper bag? No, it's necessary for multiple items
- Other options would have to account for the short lunch time, multiple places where kids eat, and the size of our school
- Properly disposing of garbage is also critical
 - Need kids to understand and differentiate compost from garbage
 - Need more time for kids to eat so they can also deal with garbage properly
 - Maybe extra garbage cans in the lunchroom
- Shaileen reported that it's possible to expand the snack program to lunches; additional funding can be obtained to host it in the server where it would be more eco friendly; this would require more volunteers
- In addition to waste, the hot lunch program may also be inequitable; some kids can't afford it (this is probably why we have been denied funding for funded lunches in the past – we're a relatively affluent school); perhaps we can support families who can't afford hot lunch

Jen will look into options such as Real Food For Real Kids and Rose Riseman to bring potential options to the next meeting

Grounds Maintenance

Patti Beiger attended to introduce an issue with the school property.

- It gets very messy outside
- When the school is already dirty it's easier to throw your garbage on the ground; how can we engage kids in keeping the school clean?
- Mr. Parsons will look into caretaking concerns and clarify who is responsible for each area in/around the school
- Parents can talk to kids about their responsibility
- We need more garbage bins, especially around entrances/exits
- Has the number of bins been reduced because we're an eco school? Perhaps we could we have the triple bins with recycling, compost and garbage

Bowmore Rocks + Carnival Update

Bowmore Rocks was a huge success. It was sold out and raised \$11,000. It was a great community event. So many parents were there, including lots of young new parents.

The Carnival is coming up on June 14.

- The bouncy castles etc. are ordered but we REALLY need people to step up and volunteer; the event is at risk
- Please sign up for a 45-minute shift
- Let's send a request through class reps
- It's a great event - bouncy castles, face painting, food, cakewalk, rock wall, food trucks, etc. Wristbands are sold for 'all you can bounce'

Another reminder: we need new council chairs next year.

Admin Team Update

Principal Heather Groves

- Thank you to everyone for attending tonight; special thanks to the Council chairs for all your unseen work and hours of dedication and leadership; we're really going to miss you next year
- **Staffing:** because we're a large school and growing (next year we'll have 1020 students) we're fortunately in a situation where we don't have to declare many staff as a surplus
- The staffing committee is looking at ideas for next year to account for all of our special programs (French, enriched learning and special needs)
- We're trying to honour the class size cap but we will likely feel an impact to class sizes in grades 4-8; therefore we're trying to provide a rotary program (music, swim, etc.) in a 10-day system to spread out opportunities to all kids that enrich their experience at school
- **Facilities:** we're getting air conditioning in the large gym; the school has been painted in various areas
- **Washrooms:** construction is going on in Kindergarten Room 1 to make the washroom accessible; we expect minimal disruption
- **School improvement plan:** we'd love to involve more interested School Council members in the 3 pillars of our plan (Wellbeing, Achievement and Equity)
- **Equity**
 - Observations from the equity team within the school as well as an arm's length group we understand that we need to own communication in a more understandable effective way
 - We want everyone to feel included and part of the school team
 - Today we embarked on an equity initiative with our Indigenous leader – an effort to authentically indigenize all of our activities (through announcements, honesty assembly, etc.); our school has the 3rd highest indigenous population in the board
- **Achievement**
 - Talcia: the **Sunshine Readers Group** has been started to support reading; this program provides opportunities for grade 7 and 8 students to support younger readers; student leaders come out a half hour before school starts; we need more students to sign up
- **Wellness**
 - So many events happening around Bowmore to promote and celebrate physical and emotional wellbeing; we're trying to provide lots of opportunities for kids to feel welcome and get involved

- The **lottery for Extended French** applicants resulted in some Bowmore applicants being denied a place; this was the first year a lottery was necessary due to high demand from all eligible schools
- The **daycare is closing** after being a partner with the school for 40 years; it is our hope that if the demand exists we will be able to offer a new extended program in the school (lead by our own ECEs)
- This was the 2nd year for our **spelling bee**; it was a well-attended event and our grade 6 student won and will go to the national spelling bee championships; a grade 7 student also competed at another school event and will go to the nationals
- **Lunchroom** – Heather met with our committee rep about lunchroom concerns; they are looking at ways to possibly find more locations; Heather would love Council support for advocating for another lunchroom supervisor
- There is a committee working on the first **yearbook**; if you have any photos of events etc., please share them
- Our students staged a **walk out** last week to protest government cuts to education funding; about 200 students took part to share their concerns
- The Grad Committee will be starting soon to plan end of year celebrations

New Business

May 28 is the Staff Appreciation lunch; we need volunteers to provide dishes for the meal and help out at the event

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 on Tuesday April 9, 2019

Next Meeting

Monday May 13, 2019 at 6:00 PM