



**Bowmore School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday February 4, 2020 @ 6:00 pm**

Meeting called to order by Jody Sadofsky at 6:07 pm.

**In Attendance**

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Abigail Sone	Cindy Perry	Kelsie Hernandez
Afreen Naaz	Elizabeth Grundon	Koreena Audette
Alexis Jennings	Fiona Luck	Leah Anderson Vojdani
Amanda McFarlane	Heather Groves	Muling Chung
Andrea Maugham	Jason Saunders	Natalie Poissant
Brandi Zebrak	Jennifer Cloke-Campbell	Shaileen Casimiro
Brandon Weigel	Jody Sadofsky	Shelly Baboolall
Jolane Folts	Joel Krentz	Zahida Sheikh

**Approval of Minutes**

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The minutes were read from the November 2019 Bowmore School Council Meeting. Approved by Jennifer Cloke-Campbell, seconded by Andrea Maugham.

**Call for New Business**

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Update re: Bowmore Rocks, Carnival

**Hot lunch program - Joel**

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- Hot lunch will not be available this year but we want to establish an approach for the upcoming year in September
- In the past we've had The Lunch Lady and other outside vendors bring in a hot lunch; it's more frequent than pizza lunch but many fewer kids participate
- There are different opinions about whether this kind of program is equitable, primarily because it's more expensive and there are more issues around who can/can't afford it
- As with any meal program, there is also the issue of eco / waste
- There are board-approved vendors to choose from
- It's up to us to decide and we want all voices to be heard
- There are also a number of paid lunch clubs (Mad Science, Glee Club, etc.) – if hot lunch is up for discussion, so are they

- JEN - from the eco perspective, there was quite a lot of waste and The Lunch Lady couldn't accommodate better options without extra cost; Rose Reisman was the best option at that time (composting and eco-friendly materials); also with The Lunch Lady the food was arriving late and therefore a lot was ending up in the garbage
- CINDY – none of these paid programs are 'necessary'; they don't fill a necessary gap and therefore it should be on these programs/providers to provide a proposal to acknowledge and address equity; this should be part of the application when coming to the school – to help children who want to participate and can't afford it
- As organizations approach us, this should be one of the requirements / criteria for being a program offered at Bowmore. We should ask.... How do you plan to identify children in need/interested? How do you plan to address equity?
  - Having a social worker/teacher identify kids in need may miss a lot of kids that are interested but can't afford
- In general, we also need supplier to ensure efficient delivery; in the past kids weren't getting meals in time to eat
- KOREENA - some schools (Franklin) have a policy where every student gets to do a club each year; they calculate the number of spots and funds required; it's an easy, equitable way to ensure everyone participates
- We need parent volunteers/Admin to start looking into options for next year
- KOREENA - pizza lunch is different because there is enough for everyone and the teachers manage the need

### **Capes for Kids - Jolane**

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- Bloorview Hospital did an inclusion assembly
- Alessandra in SK at Bowmore is a client
- Capes for Kids is the hospital's fundraising campaign – you can make it what you want it to be
- Kids are rewarded for raising money by getting to wear capes the first week of March
- Kids can wear any kind of cape – if you raise \$50, Bloorview will send you a red cape
- Jolane is wondering if Bowmore can show their support; our kids are very supportive
- There are different resources available for teachers/classes can make it what they want
- Because of work-to-rule action, teachers are not collecting for fundraising activities
- And because this is a charity, not a fundraiser for the school, it's best to use the link to Alexandra's page
- The Council can use the Facebook page and class reps to get the word out
- Not through the school newsletter because of CASL restrictions

### **Birthday Book Donations - Jody**

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- Jody received information about a program where through coordination with school Admin, each child's parents get a letter on their child's birthday providing the option to donate a book to the library in the child's name
- The child's name is on the dedication in the book
- It's a way for parents to do something for the school instead of cupcakes for the class etc.

- KOREENA – concerns about equity; only families who have money have the honour of having their name in a book
- Maybe there is a fund so parents who can't afford it can participate, or books are donated on behalf of the child's class instead of an individual
- Or it could be an end-of-year program instead
- Maybe we could ask parents to make an extra donation on behalf of kids who can't afford
- Perhaps we could focus on younger grades (JK – 5); there's a bigger impact for them to see over the years; even just grade 4 when they're in the reading program
- SHELLEY – what is the % of low income families in our school? Heather/Joel to find out; so we can have context around these discussions

### **Police Checks - Joel & Cindy**

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- The process has become very strict; police check is now required even if you want to go on a field trip once in the year
- JOEL – Bowmore is such a big school with so much going on the Superintendent wants us to be strict about these requirements
- It's a pretty high barrier for parents who want to participate; there are a lot of steps / time required
- The Policy is that they'll give you a 'by' one time if you've submitted the paperwork
- Can we do it in a batch? We could use Cash Online to get around the need for a money order and submit the paperwork in a batch
- FIONA - the only issue is that if one form is incorrect, the entire batch comes back
- SHAIENE – for snack program this becomes an issue; we should do the batch in April or May to be ready for September
- We could include it in the JK registration package and send the form in a wave from classroom

### **Pro Grant 'parent resource library' - Cindy**

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- There is a grant available for up to \$1000 per school to be used for a number of things
- We could use it to focus on parent engagement – speakers, etc. or specifically, a parent resource library; we could buy resources on anti-oppression topics for adults (how to discuss with your kids) or for kids; the materials would stay in the library for parents to access
- Cindy is willing to complete the application
- HEATHER – it would be even more accessible to have it in the office for parents to sign out
- We could send a list of available resources to parents (FB group, newsletter, etc.) to make sure they know it's there
- JOEL – if we purchase resources through the school, we get a significant discount

### **The Talk follow up - Koreena**

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- We held a get-together of parents at The Wright Spot to extend the conversation about how to talk about race to your kids
- The next speaker will be Alanna David, board employee, Gender Based Violence Prevention social worker; she will discuss talking to children about gender identity and

sexual diversity on March 31 (open to parents and teachers of Bowmore and other schools); it will be held at Bowmore, with childcare in the library

- We may also have a speaker this year about talking to your kids about neurodiversity
- PARENT – it would be great to have a speaker to talk to kids about mental health and anxiety; how to recognize and support it
- SHAILENE – how can the material be accessible to parents who can't attend?
- CINDY – some speakers can talk to kids in the afternoon and then parents in the evening
- Perhaps a Facebook Live on the Council page

### **Grade 8 Hoodies - Jennifer**

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- The grade 8 parents have gotten together and would like to make grade 8 hoodies and sell them to parents; funds will be built into the cost to raise money for the grade 8 trip
- Heather has a vendor option
- Council does not need to approve as it is not part of the budget but can help promote the effort
- If action with teachers is not settled, there will be no trip; parents would have to organize it on their own; discuss at next Council meeting

### **Danceathon update - Andrea**

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- Fundraising event is cancelled due to the work-to-rule action
- It was already rescheduled once due to the CUPE strike in the Fall
- It may be just postponed, depending on how long the strike action lasts
- We're on the hook for the \$400 deposit plus 400 envelopes
- It raised \$18K last year; that much was earmarked for the music program this year

### **Screenagers Part 2 screening - Heather**

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- Documentary about screens and teens and the impact and implications of growing up with phones, etc.
- A sequel has been released
- We will join the screening with 9 other schools
- For parents and older kids (grades 7 and 8)
- Could we put something like this in the Parent Resource Library?
- A lot of parents don't understand what's going on with kids and what they're doing online; Screenagers does open your eyes about this
- We should have a Q&A about it around the screening
- Alexis has been talking to a speaker about cyber safety - we could tie it together
- Community Centre 55 holds workshops for kids for cyber safety and staying home alone
- PARENT - do you need to watch the first one to understand the 2nd? Unknown. Part 2 is updated for how much technology has changed

## Admin Team update - Heather, Joel

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### Plant/Facility

- Every year Admin is asked to come up with a wish list of priorities for the school; our new caretaker has identified items needing attention that will hopefully be covered by Health & Safety:
  - Upgrading lighting in the large gym
  - Sanding the stage (child got slivers, 60 year old stage)
  - Painting lines on the gym floor (haven't been done in 20+ years)
  - Lift in the pool (very high priority to ensure accessibility)
  - Breezeway plane – amalgamating the floors to align between the two buildings (might make more classroom spaces); temporary ramp
  - Water Filling Stations (2 per building)
    - Some teachers are still telling kids not to drink the water
    - Kindergarten class has a handwashing-only tap (only because that tap hasn't been tested) but there is a plan to put a filling station on that floor, for Kindergarten and EDP
    - JOEL – there were concerns with water quality; we were cleared and we're fine but there may still be some misinformation amongst parents and some teachers
  - WIFI improvement
  - Parking lot improvements to address tripping hazard, etc.
  - PARENT – kids are afraid to wash their hands in the bathroom because they say kids pee in the soap dispensers. JOEL – it did happen once last year; to our knowledge this has not happened again (and it's quite obvious when it happens)

### School Improvement Update (Joel)

- All schools in Ontario focus on the same three things; Joel to share out
- Holistically we've been focusing on student voices overall

#### **Equity**

- continuing with gender issues (Mr Z)
- celebrating the idea of family; celebrating mothers and fathers day is not part of curriculum but some teachers do; we've introduced the idea of celebrating family day because it's more diverse and inclusive; bringing awareness to diversity and how to address different situations
- moving forward with indigenizing our school our teaching; a number of key teachers involved; recently had a meeting with the board's Urban Indigenous Education Centre; they will come into the school and work with our classes; we also have an indigenous student success coach and Deann Hutfield from Urban Indigenous Education Centre every Thursday

#### **Wellness**

- Grades 7 and 8 working on a positive campaign around kindness; it's a tricky time... we're looking at positive transitions
- Important to focus on mental health and wellness

#### **Achievement.**

### Guest Speakers

- The Community Centre here (Toronto Parks and Recreation) is underutilized, often sitting empty during the week; we'd like to use the space to provide opportunities; Manager is willing to be a great partner to find uses for us (e.g. spelling bee, training, certification, babysitting courses, etc.)
- Winter Fun Fest will be held there February 22 from 12-5
- Nancy Young might also be a social media speaker

### Ext French Immersion

- Applications for FI are closed; there will be a lottery based on interest; have to vet applications first for eligibility (there are 5 eligible schools)
- Next year is the last year for extended French for grade 7
- For grades 4 and 5 now there is no option for French? Joel to clarify at the next meeting

### Work to Rule update

- Bring your kids and come to support; make signs, bring coffee, snacks, etc.
- Everyone is trying to stay positive
- PARENT – what happens to the cost of field trips cancelled due to strike action? JOEL - it will be refunded through Cash Online (or how you paid)

### **New Business**

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- NATALIE: Bowmore Rocks will be held Saturday May 2 at the Legion; an email and FB announcement are pending to save the date
  - We will also announce via school newsletter and class reps
  - We're reaching out to parents re silent auction
- ALEXIS - no leads have stepped up to take on the Carnival; we have broken it out into responsibilities to see if people will volunteer for smaller parts
  - Nothing is set yet (maybe a Saturday instead of a Friday?)
  - We need at least 3 people
  - We will publish on FB elsewhere

Meeting adjourned 8:06 pm.