



**Bowmore School Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 21st, 2021 at 6:00 pm**

**In Attendance (Zoom Meeting)**

Koreena Audette

Patricia Beiger

Emily Boffa

Lyndsey Camps

Melissa Carter

Shaileen Casimiro

Dave Casimiro

Marika Emery

Jolane Folts

Stephanie Gower

Heather Groves

Elizabeth Grundon

Kelsie Hernandez

Zenobia Homavazir

Lisa Hopkins

Alexis Jennings

Joel Krentz

Veronica Logue

Ruth Martin

Andrea Maugham

Matt Moody

Rasha Mourtada

Carolyn Otter

Stephen Parsons

Lisa Perelman

Cindy Perry

Natalie Poissant

Jody Sadofsky

Kelsey Turner

Marycarmen Lara Villanueva

Leah Anderson Vojda

Angie Winstl

Jamie Zancai

**Meeting called to order by Jody Sadofsky at 6:03 pm.**

**Land acknowledgement - (Alexis & Ethan Jennings)**

**Fundraising Update (Jody)**

- Open call for anyone interested in leading/championing the fundraising initiatives for Bowmore School Council such as virtual book fairs etc.
- Malvern has deployed a letter to parents stating fundraising will not be taking place this year, however any contributions or cash donations would be accepted and added to the School Council bank account.

**Social Worker Introduction (Zenobia Homavazir)**

- Zenobia has been working with the TDSB and Bowmore for 5 years in the role of School Social Worker/Attendance Counsellor to ensure our children's social and emotional well-being.
- Work with students may be one-on-one or in group/classroom settings.
- Some students may be identified as 'Tier 3' in needing additional support or intervention. In light of the pandemic, there is a need to be able to do more.

- Social worker support services are currently provided 1 to 1.5 days a week depending on the school size and specific needs - this mirrors what we see in the community and speaks to an overall provincial lack of funding.
- Mental Health in the Pandemic - What to look for in your kids:
  - Increased anxiety going to school, showing up online, going outside, sleep disturbances, etc.
  - **Note: See attachment** for Mental Health TO
- Oxford Centre for Child Studies parent survey (1st wave) results
  - **Note: See attached presentation**
- Zenobia runs monthly parent workshops - notifications are sent out by admin
- Board-wide message is 'wellness first' and concerns should be shared with the child's teacher so they are aware.

### **Equity & Social Justice Committee Update** (Koreena, Cindy, Ruth)

- (Koreena) Upcoming webinar on Jan 28th at 7pm "It's Bigger Than Hip-Hop" exploring black hip-hop, hip hop culture and the commodification of hip-hop.
- Grade 4-8 students will be invited to attend a virtual workshop with Marcus at 1pm on Monday, Jan 25. Thursday's webinar is an opportunity for caregivers to find out more about what students learned in the workshop.
- Equity committee putting together more webinars, stay tuned for updates.
- (Ruth) Videos on identity "Students for Students" where students have been exploring and creating content about their own experiences with diversity and identity.
- Equity updates will now be available through the main Bowmore twitter account.

### **Admin Update** (Heather, Joel, Stephen)

- (Stephen) Online announcements have been made available on the TDSB Bowmore website.
- In the process of developing an online version of announcements created by older students in the school to be delivered at a time that is appropriate for the age of the students hearing the announcement.
- (Joel) Concerns have been brought up regarding whether homework is an appropriate expectation given the current situation and over-saturation of online learning. Staff determined homework will be minimized as much as possible for asynchronous learners in an effort to reduce the amount of time students are spending online. Unfinished school work or special projects will still need to be completed. Individual concerns should be brought to the teacher.
- (Stephen) Examining the possibility of one Zoom link per class vs. multiple links throughout the day.
- Scheduling has been adjusted to create a "3 in 1 school" format that uses time blocking to create cohorts thus increasing the safety for groups of students in the school. If virtual learning is extended past mid-February adjustments may be made to current scheduling format.

- (Heather) Parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers if there are scheduling conflicts or concerns that may
- Communication board is broken and electronic board suppliers are being sourced. Cost is higher than expected, so administration is reaching out to our daycare providers for potential contributions.
- (Joel) Term 2 report cards will continue to be e-mailed to parents.
- (Stephen) Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on the week of February 8th via a phone or video conference. Teachers will be in contact in the days to come.
- (Joel) addresses questions from parents:
  - Attendance: occasional days off or shortened days can be accommodated. Caregivers may reach out to their child's teacher to initiate the process, which will then be submitted for approval from school administration and superintendent.
  - Public Health Nurse: upcoming presentation from public health nurse delayed due to reassignment during the winter break
  - Printing at home: no expectations that parents need to print worksheets. If a parent has a concern regarding printing, they may contact Joel or the classroom teacher and it will be resolved.
  - Teacher Absences: same process as always - absence reported and lesson plan submitted to the school and material is covered by the supply teacher. If there is not an available supply teacher, the material will be provided to the students and completed offline.
  - Safe return to school: there has not yet been a directive from the TDSB or any governing body that calls for increased safety measures (ie. social distancing and hygiene practices) despite rising provincial COVID numbers. (Heather) 90% of students have been attending in-class lessons prior to the stay-home orders and space is limited.
  - Mental health is top priority and teachers are being encouraged to keep that in mind during report cards and academic assessment.
- (Stephen) Special Education Update: Reviews taking place Jan/Feb for students on IEPs.

### **Council Update**

- (Alexis) Screenagers film preview is offered for a 2 weeks period beginning Monday, Jan 25 - February 10th. Email with link to register for viewing was sent. All requests can be sent to Bowmore School Council.
- X Movement Classroom - Free subscription to health and wellness virtual programming for teachers, parents and students. E-mail Bowmore School Council to register.
- (Kelsey) Bowmore School Council website is in early stages being updated to become easier to navigate and with improved content for families. A survey was sent to parents on Jan 17th requesting website feedback.

- (Jody) Open call for anyone interested in the role of Council Co-Chair as Jody and Alexis are in their 2nd year of a 2 year term. Emails can be sent to Bowmore School Council email.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:15pm**