

**Bowmore School Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday September 28th, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

**In Attendance (Zoom Meeting)**

Heather Groves, Joel Krentz, Marta Kopun, Lisa Telio, Sara Desjardins-Smith, Lily Adams, Mark Adams, Amy Harcourt, Veronica Logue, Thomas Gerrard, Marycarmen Lara Villanueva, Lyndsey Camps, Jennifer Steede, Andrea Hughes, Crystal Chapman, Gillian Lester, Rob Krakauer, Bridget Bolger, Bosa Djordjevic, Andrea Maugham, Bruce Taylor, Jane Baldwin, Mike Cyr, Kira Levine, Ingrid Palmer, Sherif Farouk, Claudia Mueller, Gabrielle Stannus, Matt Moody, Jessica Christensen, Rebecca Jones, Stephen Phillips, Valia Reinsalu, Gillian Steeve, Nicola Worsfold, Kasia Zahiri, Natalie Poissant, Khanh Le, Melissa Carter, Fiona Luck, Edma Fakih, Paul Paporizos, Heather Robson, Melissa Siah, Amanda McFarlane, Janice Leung, Lainey Bonsell, Kareem Sherif, Katerina Gont, Lea Anderson Vojdani, Bethany Marcus, Theo Mayers, Mariluz Sanchez, Alex Levinsky, Jenn Engels, Prateek Awasthi, Zoe Sher, Kat Lanteigne, Meaghan Cunningham, Patricia Beiger, Maruf Raza, Nicole St Jean, Anila Dumont, Polina Rogers, Yoomie Cho, Rasha Mourtada, Jamie Camp, Carolyn Otter, Cindy Perry, Alexis Jennings, Jody Sadofsky, Lisa Perleman, Jenn Cloke-Campbell, Samantha Stephens, Helen Du, Sarah Young, Kelsey Turner, Kelsie Hernandez, Michaela Jeffs, Sarah Kelar, Heather Ruddell, Joan Bowman, Elizabeth Grundon, Meredith Briglio, Michael Douglas, Brian Rieper, Jessica Arseneau, Cait Coull, Zahra Irtaza, Dave Flitton, Koreena Audette, Stephanie & Reed Davies, Mary Clarke, Gillian Flanagan, Morgan Russell, Cara Aldred, Cynthia Pouleter, Robyn Elbaum, Laura Roth, Scott Macleod, Corrie Mooney, Dave Clarke, Colleen, Henman, Julie Price Moncrieff, Mercedes Lee, Lisa Orchard, Vashti Persad, Sarah Gale, Jason Saunders, Stephanie Gower, Afreen Hadi, Abigail Sone, Johanna Poceviat, Katrin Someraa, Shaileen & Dave Casimiro, Kirsty Pazeck-Smith, Gillian Kennedy, Ronnie Shore, Rebecca Militello, Erin Church, Meghan Church, Alison & Dan Dwoz, Hariklia Vageli, Tervor Landon, Samatha Murray, Samantha Morris, Matt Jaeger, Kelly Drew, Jill Nurse, Ferdousi Azmi, Joanne, Dianne Kostopoulos, Karin Saldim Eaton, Irene Giannaylis, Farhana Hossain, James Bronfman, Jill Bronfman, Dawn Waisberg, Karyn Robson, Dawn Slawter-Smith, Megan Hudson, Ruth Martin, Jason Fenton, Leah Jarvis, Alexandra Stewart, Reed Davies, Danica Perisic, Isla Gray.

**Meeting called to order by Alexis Jennings at 7:06 pm**

**Land acknowledgement: Alexis Jennings**

**Welcome back – Jody Sadofsky and Alexis Jennings**

- School Council exists to facilitate engagement between families and administration. We ask community to advance questions or issues of concern, a chance to learn what's going on at Bowmore.
- Our website is <https://bowmoresc.com/>
- We can also accommodate translators for anyone who would like to be able to join, please let us or the community know, please reach out to us or Administration (Vice-Principals or Principal) to set that up.
- Delighted with the level of engagement: 140 reservations for this evening – never that big before. 90 was the biggest number last year. Please let us know what is it that brought you here? Specific concern? Is the time or medium better? COVID questions/concerns. We would love to know why you made it this evening.

**Covid Protocols (wellness room Q&A) - Jason Fenton**

- Former Bowmore swim team/swim teacher Jason Fenton currently runs our Wellness room, now room **20, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**, changed from room 5. Staff, students did a marvellous job last year, one of the biggest TDSB schools that remained open, there were no breakouts, only some class closures. That great work carrying on this year. Some students are coming to the Health Room for anxieties, a space away for kids who need it. Keeping up with new info from Board, Province, City.
- COVID symptoms to look out for have really shrunk. They are now: **fever, chills, cough, difficulty breathing, decrease taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea**. Have a supply of COVID tests that go home with you if a case of COVID suspected.

- If a parent is aware that child has existing condition that might present itself as one of those symptoms, let office know, provide a health-provider's note and they will let Wellness room know.
- Still have former nurse's room if need to do isolation. If we do have a case, and a class is sent home, siblings of non-sick children in the sent home class do not have to go home this year. Parents of the children in the class will know first, and then the whole school will know.
- If any questions or concerns, please be in touch.
- (Jason and Joel Krentz, VP) address question from parent:
  - o Why can't older children do online check in to save paper? The screenshot only shows a code, not a date. Because teachers don't have scanning app, they can't verify. Also word got back that some grade 8 students last year were using the same screenshot every day. Equity reasons for kids who don't have phone.

### **Ruth Martin – The student voice Committee**

- Off to a great start with the committee. Interest is wonderful – 250-300 students who have shown an interest in joining the committee. Social justice issues are the focus. Anti-Black racism, anti-Semitism, anti-Indigenous racism, anti-homophobia. A great group of teachers working with the group. A group of chairs hopefully will be able to join at future meeting. Working in collaboration with (former Bowmore, now Malvern) students who are working with Grade 8's this year. Encouraging to hear the chairs and what they have to say; that they have seen such a positive growth in inclusivity, and equity issues.
- There is an Announcement group, and a Newspaper group – a couple of teachers that are leading, will make it more of a digital format. Newspapers will be broadcast on TV at the front of the school.
- Also, poetry/rap team will be performing on the announcements.
- One of the chairs in the meeting said he felt responsibility and commitment that there would be no homophobia or racist remarks anywhere in the school. Very excited to see the momentum building and that almost one third of our school is committed to this work.

### **Orange Shirt Day – Joel Krentz**

- This Thursday September 30, in keeping with National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Each homeroom teacher has been giving each student time for their own moment of reflection in class over the last couple of days. Providing each with a ribbon they will tie, as each student ties on their ribbon – they make their own commitment. Teacher leaders will be helping to create an orange shirt made from all the ribbons.
- Thursday's Land Acknowledgment will be in front of the school to witness the shirt installation on Thursday.
- Will be hoisting a special flag Wednesday morning, one of our indigenous students will be coming out to bless it. Part of this initiative includes fundraising which will benefit an Indigenous children's group
- An educator from the UIEC – Urban Indigenous Education Centre, who works with Ruth Martin will also be presenting to our school.
- Principal Groves suggested to the School Council Equity team, who helps the council to partner with a school for an equity transfer, what we could partner with a model school for inner cities, to receive learnings from them.

### **Terry Fox Run – (Joel Krentz for Leah Jarvis)**

- This year's run will be Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.
- This year the Terry Fox organization partnered with BC Métis nation for a design of a new T-Shirt, to honour Terry's mother's Métis heritage. <https://shop.terryfox.org/collections/2021-terry-fox-run-t-shirt/products/2021-terry-fox-run-t-shirt>
- October 7<sup>th</sup>'s run will be cohorted. Students are encouraged to bring in a Toonie for Terry, or can make donation online <https://secure.terryfox.ca/registrator/DonationPage.aspx?eventid=203789&langpref=en-CA&Referrer=https%3a%2f%2fterryfox.org%2f>
- Bowmore has participated in the last 17 runs, raising over \$58,000.
- Joel addresses question from parents: Will parents be allowed to go and cheer on kids? Unfortunately not this year.

### **Snack Program Update – Shaileen Casimiro**

- Snack program recommencing on Monday October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Government funded program to have a snack provided to each and every student. 41 classes. 988 students.
- 2 food groups: Fruit/Veg (fresh) and grain/dairy (packaged). Students can choose not to eat it.
- All allergies based on forms submitted taken into consideration.
- Parents with questions or concerns can reach out to [bowmoresnack@gmail.com](mailto:bowmoresnack@gmail.com) or reach out to homeroom teachers.

### **Bowmore School Council self-nominations – Jody Sadofsky**

- School Council is open for all parents, caregivers, people in the community, working towards meeting school's goals, also bringing attention towards important issues, cultural or otherwise.
- In order for funds raised in the previous year to be spent, a proper council needs to be set up, requiring a chair/co-chair. The co-chairs serve a 2-year term.
- As outgoing co-chairs, Jody and Alexis are looking for new co-chairs to come forward. One parent has stepped up with a self-nomination, but would like a co-chair to work with them. Hoping that someone else will step forward with a self-nomination.
- Other roles that need to be filled are Treasurer and Communications Co-Ordinator, as well as Parent (voting) Member, stepping forward to be a part of the council. Council members can go from zero commitments to being as committed and involved as you want. Self-nomination opens today and closes on October 12<sup>th</sup>, first new council of the year meeting Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. Reach out to current co-chairs through the [website](#) or <https://www.facebook.com/BowmoreSC/> to get involved.

### **School Budget Review – Alexis Jennings**

- Tallied the input for spending for this year, spending plan approved back in the spring, voted at the end of last year.
- Total budget \$50,000 – these funds come from fundraising done from last year, also carry over funds from 2019/2020. Carry-over not normally allowed, but due to COVID an exception was made.
- Line items came from the community, teachers and admin who put forward a proposal, as well as teachers and Admin, the document was shared with council and the budget was approved.
- **Note: See attachment for Bowmore School Council Proposed Spending Plan 2021/2022**

### **TerraCycle PPE box update – Jenn Engels**

- One of the initiatives of the Eco Club is to reduce waste produced by the school. Disposable masks used by staff is one great item to remove from landfill.
- BSC purchased a Terracycle Mask Recycling box (15 x 15 x 42) which is in place near the photocopiers, an area mostly accessed by staff. Last year we only needed one, but hopefully the school will remain open the entire year and a second might be purchased.

### **Rapid Covid Testing – Heather Ruddell**

10 community stakeholders met recently to see how we could bring asymptomatic testing to our school community. Not a school initiative, parent led. They have founded a Facebook page for updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1000971920479219/>

- It is part of the StaySafe Ambassador program. <https://staysafescreen.ca/>
- Hoping that our data can help inform how many asymptomatic testing is occurring in schools, and continue to pressure the government. Hoping to secure a consistent supply of 1000 tests weekly.
- The only data that we will be asking for is email address and number of children to test regularly.
- If positive test, provided with a link, provide that to Michael Garron Hospital, take child to testing centre, MGH will only report aggregate data. MGH will track and do some contact tracing.
- The group will mail you a google form, fill it out if you want tests, home or porch drop off, 2 tests per child per week, some instruction on how to perform.
- School can't support it broadly because of equity. Might be allowed to share on BSC Facebook link

- How is the initiative funded? Through the Stay Safe – have tests from government for businesses and other community organizations.
- Looking for volunteers who will drive to Kitchener to pick up tests.
- Hoping to roll out tests as early as next week.

#### **Administration Team Update – Heather Groves, Joel Krentz, Marta Kopun**

- Heather gave a warm welcome to Marta Kopun, our new VP.
- Welcome to members of the staff, Emily Applebee-Barnes a former volunteer teacher in early literacy who came back, now later supporting kids' literacy
- Welcome back Ms. Valia Reinsalu – Did virtual school last year, teaching digital literacy.
- She is back in the library this year, the Learning Library Commons. Library had been closed since March 2020. Working hard to keep space open in safe/careful way. Every class has opportunity to use space, every 10-day cycle. Using occupational health and safety guidelines, sanitizing before and after.
- Online site is within the TDSB. <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/library/HOME/schoolno/5300>
- Every child grade 4-8 can sign in, working with admin a way to make this more public.
- Looking forward to having family/caregiver/adult sessions, accessing digital texts to continue the learning at home. Please stay tuned - once the dates are set - we will definitely send out the dates for you to join via Zoom
- Celebrating different groups, identities, culture
- Following the philosophy of legendary educator Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, who said that “Books are mirrors, windows, and sliding doors”

#### **School improvement plan – Joel Krentz**

- 4 Positions of Responsibility (Roles on the staff)
- There 3 major pillars. **Equity. Well-being. Student Achievement.** They are adding a fourth this year - **Indigenous Education/Decolonization.** Engage staff a lot more than we have in the past. As well as BSC. Would really like your input as to what the goals should be. Needs to be finalized by the end of October.
- Ask teachers to align their work and their improvement plans with it.

#### **Curriculum Night – next Tues Oct 5 from 6:00-7:00 pm.**

- Two - ½ hour sessions for parents with more than one child. All virtual but the hope is to allow parents/care givers to see the space. Teachers will send a link to sign up, still no in-person.
- What's being taught in the classroom, the plan for the year. Not about individual students; that will come later in the year.

#### **Q&A – Answered by Administration**

- **Racist / homophobic graffiti** – always want to ensure we have a positive safe space. Anti-Black/ Anti-Semitic racism. Series of responses from our board, helps us to navigate and ensure we are responding appropriately. As much as we can share, interviewing students, trying to determine how this occurred, students have been forthcoming, sharing what they can, occurred after the welcome back chalk drawings were created.
- Working on a response to this. A Facebook question came as to whether or not there could be a counter protest around this? Can't encourage graffiti; graffiti begets graffiti. Operation Response Team meeting on Friday, outcome will be shared with our Human Rights Department, School Superintendent.
- Couple of other incidents shared with Equity Team on Council. More incidents around homophobia, transphobia, improve our culture and get the community to process and respond. In order to move on from it, want to name it. Logging the comments in a portal, and working with a social worker who works in gender-based violence. Reaching out to the community on how best to address these incidents. This year work will be continuing with a seminar like *Good Guys* (looking at Hegemonic Masculinity) – if not the same, something similar. Also, The *Get Real* movement, Queer positive/Trans positive work. When it's virtual, it's actually helpful. Greater participation.

- ***What about cameras being installed?*** Request has gone in to school superintendent. Anything we can do to improve safety for all would be improved. Cameras, lighting, more cross walks. More letters to Superintendent asking for getting cameras would be extremely helpful.
- ***Are these messages isolated incidents or do they speak to a larger cultural issue at Bowmore?*** Hope it's not a school cultural problem, but hard to say it is not. We are buoyed by the work of Student Voice – bringing these things to our attention, they have the courage to bring it forward.
- ***After school groups and teams?*** Don't know yet if we will be doing teams such as Cross-Country. There will be no Cross-Country meet this year but don't know about a team, it's still early in the year. Can't answer that now. Difficult to answer that question, based on teachers' commitments, their own families, etc. Robotics will be doing something via Zoom, some teachers who will be available to do more Zoom-type meetings.
- ***Will parents be invited to Remembrance Day Ceremony?*** No visitors at the moment. And will not for quite a while. Looking at a vaccine mandate for visitors in the future.
- ***Siblings*** – if a child had COVID, that class had to go home. Now the mandate is: only the student with COVID and the class.
- ***What are ways other than wearing clothes, in which students can show promise / reflection / commitment to Orange Shirt Day?*** Teacher will be providing a piece of fabric that they can tie around their arm
- ***Before and After School Yard Supervision*** – 20 minutes before and 20 minutes, starting this year.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35 on Tuesday September 28, 2021.**

**NEXT MEETING: October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 7:00pm**