

**Bedford Park School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 7:00 p.m.**

**1. Council Update – Sandy McCall, Co-Chair (Outgoing)**

A proposal to have Cindy McKay and Marianne Boyce as Co-Chairs was put forth and there were no objections. Council membership for the 2014/2015 school year was announced and the new Council members each provided a brief personal introduction. Steve Campbell noted that he will be stepping down as co-treasurer and provided an overview of the co-treasurer's duties including tracking expenditures and making sure payments are made in a timely fashion.

**MOTION:** Sandy McCall moved that the 2014/2015 Council be as follows:

Co-Chairs – Cindy McKay and Marianne Boyce  
Co-Treasurers – Megan Segsworth and Ulviya Aslanov  
Secretary – Heather Robertson  
Media Rep – Beth Lauer  
Kindergarten Rep – Rosanna Barbieri  
Ranleigh Rascals Rep – Wendy Cole  
Members at Large – Terence Adams, Michael Colley, Kas Lingenfelter, Kirsten Moore, Carolyn Oliver, Jason Vescovi, Silja Yates

**SECONDED:** Beth Lauer

**2. Principal Update - Kevin Battaglia**

(a) Kids at Play Signs - There has been some thought to ordering Kids at Play signs for the school yard to encourage traffic to slow down on adjacent school streets and two options for purchases are 1) a few large expensive signs or 2) small signs with a required minimum order of 50. The incoming co-chairs decided to use unallocated carry forward in the budget to purchase four large signs to be placed on the schoolyard.

(b) School Lunch Program - There has been great interest in Bedford having a school-lunch program however with the large number of kids staying for lunch it is proving difficult to find a solution. The main challenges with the lunch program are ensuring that the lunch is nutritious, minimizing the waste/ecological impact, and avoiding further delays in the lunchroom (gym). Consideration is being given to two companies. The first, Real Food for Real Kids, can provide lunch in a servery fashion however this will create lineups and potentially take too long with the number of kids expected to enroll. The second company, The Lunch Lady, uses recyclable containers and can collect all recyclables after use. No volunteers (parent or teacher) are required with either vendor. Concerns were raised with respect to line-ups and delays in the lunchroom, and sports practices at lunch in the gym could be compromised. Mr. Battaglia was of the view that a pilot approach (for a few months for example) is not preferred given the difficulty in pulling out of a lunch program after implementing. Further, attempting to

include only some grades on certain days would lead to scheduling difficulties and confusion. Beth Lauer recalled that approximately 80% of those surveyed were interested in a lunch program.

Kirsten Moore agreed to call Brown Junior Public School and make some inquiries with respect to how the lunch program operates and will provide Mr. Battaglia and the co-chairs with an update.

(c) Renovation Update – The Kindergarten classrooms were renovated just prior to school commencing, and the new construction site when completed will have three new classrooms. With respect to enrollment, the school has 40 less kids for the 2014/15 year than projected and therefore no class reorganization is necessary this year. While the school is projected to grow slowly over the long term, it may be possible to remove one or more of the portables in the 2015/16 school year.

(d) Staff Update – A second new vice-principal Kim Stark joined David Easson and was welcomed by all at the meeting. In addition, Allison Blight is now teaching library and special resource, and Aaron Chan has continued responsibility for technology.

### **3. Budget Update – Steve Campbell, Co-Treasurer (Outgoing)**

(a) Last year's budgeted expenditure was \$58,000 and expenses incurred were \$42,000, with art, science and general enrichment making up the majority of the expenses. Steve recommended informing teachers of an amount given per student in order to simplify the process for teachers and assist in budgeting. This year's budget is \$60,000.

(b) The technology budget that was set aside was used to purchase 30 new iPads this year (as confirmed by Aaron Chan).

(c) Beth Lauer noted that further funds for the website may be necessary this year.

**MOTION:** Sandy moved to pass the budget.

**SECONDED:** Ulviya Aslanov

**MOTION:** Steve Campbell moved that Sandy McCall, Dawn Fell, Steve Campbell and Tali Laurenson be removed as signing executives and Cindy McKay, Marianne Boyce, Ulviya Aslanov, Heather Robertson be made signing executives with Megan Segsworth on the Council account.

**SECONDED:** Sandy McCall

### **4. Technology Update - Aaron Chan**

The decision was made to purchase the second cart of 30 iPads prior to the commencement of the school year so that the iPads are available in September. Every classroom is assigned an iPad cart for two periods per week in September and October and at that point the schedule will be reevaluated. The schedule also allows for extra time upon request by the teacher. The second iPad cart hasn't yet arrived and there are technical difficulties with respect to the first cart, which are being worked through and the iPads are expected to be up and running soon. Given the age of the Kindergarten students, it was determined that the Kindergarten classes would benefit from having a modified schedule of two full days to use five iPads in a centered approach, with the iPads rotating to a new class after the second day. Also purchased for this year were sourcing speakers, document cameras and digital projectors.

The ixl sign-up was launched although some parents had difficulty typing in the link from the envelope provided so the link will be distributed electronically.

## **5. Questions from the Floor and Open Discussion**

(a) A question arose as to whether an author could attend the school to do a presentation and/or creative writing workshop for a fee. Mr. Battaglia noted that these types of offers are not uncommon and there is a significant industry for such workshops. The best approach is for Parent Council to set aside a specific amount of funds for these types of workshops and decide how best the funds can be used in this respect.

(b) The issue of whether the school could accommodate a family lunchroom for parents to stay and eat with school age children and other siblings was raised. Possible problems identified would be securing a classroom and arranging for additional caretakers, supervisors.

(c) Questions were raised with respect to whether the After 4 program would be re-introduced or whether there would be a rainbow loom or lego club. This year such a program could be more difficult given that more rooms are in use. We will need to be mindful of the teachers and want to avoid teachers feeling pressure to leave the classroom immediately at lunch or at the end of the school day.

(d) With respect to the Chess Club some concerns over the paper registration process were expressed however it was noted that Quick Enrollment is expensive and although PayPal could be used for payment, a paper registration form would still be required and therefore any benefit to using PayPal would be minimal.

**Meeting concluded at 8:20 pm.**

**Next Meeting Scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> 2014 – 7:00pm in Portable 3**