

Bedford Park School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 27th, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

1. Council Update – Cindy McKay and Marianne Boyce

(a) Parents' Night Out – There are a number of tickets still available and parent council was encouraged to try to generate further interest. The facility can accommodate approximately 300 people. The tickets are available to be preordered and will be available for sale at a later date (to be announced).

(b) Earth Rangers – Earth Rangers have come to the school previously and were well received and they have been booked again for this year.

(c) Prologue – Rosanna Barbieri is working on dates for a Prologue performing arts event at the school for all grades including Kindergarten. It was noted that the Prologue show for grades 1-8 would likely be on March 9th, and the Kindergarten date would be decided soon.

2. School Update - Kevin Battaglia

(a) Sports Program– Mr. Battaglia, Mr. Henneberry, Mr. Norris, and an interested group of parents have been considering potential changes to the current sports program in order to increase programs for younger students, and possibly introduce some non-competitive programs. An update will be available soon, potentially before the next meeting.

(b) School Field – The field was extremely wet and combined with cold temperatures there is now a layer of ice on the field. Pylons have been used to block off the ice section to ensure the students are safe. The TDSB has indicated that an attempt will once again be made to grow grass on the field using grass seed. Unfortunately the planting will require fencing around the field starting in July and ending at some point after the beginning of the new school year. While the field won't be available for ultimate and other sports, use of the track will be permitted.

Question from the floor – Would it be possible to lay sod as an alternative or seek parent support to raise funds for artificial turf? Mr. Battaglia noted that the TDSB has indicated their preference is to plant seed and it was noted that artificial turf would cost upwards of \$500,000 and fundraising for that amount could be difficult. The possibility of contacting Gerri Gershon to initiate discussions was raised.

(c) Parents as Partners –The Parents as Partners event was well attended and we will be looking for feedback as we decide what to do next.

(d) Other – Parents are facing decisions during this time with respect to whether kids will be leaving for French immersion, late immersion, or school changes for other reasons. These decisions have implications on staff and staffing models for next year

need to be developed. Construction on the addition is busy and regular maintenance is busy as well. There has been a focus on wellness and mental health including announcements and parent nights.

Question from the floor – A question arose as to how our school compares to other schools when it comes to monitoring the schoolyard. In particular, it was questioned whether we should have teachers positioned near the Wanless fence openings. Mr. Battaglia noted that our school is similar to other schools with respect to school safety and there are six supervisors at lunch. On the schoolyard supervisors are positioned near climbers and near the concrete areas where they are needed most for safety reasons. It was also noted that students are taught the first week of school about school safety and the importance of staying on school property. Excluding all adults from school property was not determined to be a viable option.

3. Budget Update – Megan Segsworth, Co-Treasurer

Over \$5000 has been spent on science and Scientist in the School has been popular with teachers. Earth Rangers will be coming in, and Mr. Henneberry has made some further purchases.

4. Technology Update - Aaron Chan

(a) General - Receipts pending from last year have been submitted including speakers and minor iPad accessories. iPad carts went on full rotation in the school in the fall and unfortunately two iPads went missing and have not been located. A new system for tracking the iPads has been implemented which includes installing Find my iPhone on the devices and manual check out/check ins. Mr. Battaglia noted that parent council is involved in acquiring technology and paying for normal wear and tear, however losses or breakage are covered by the school budget.

(b) Chromebooks – Previously our school was provided with Netbooks for three years however the lease is expiring and a proposal was therefore put forth to purchase Chromebooks to replace the Netbooks using the \$10,000 in basket money from last year. Kids working on the computers will continue to save work on Google servers and can access work from home.

MOTION: Cindy McKay moved that the \$10,000 basket money from last year be used to purchase Chromebooks.

SECONDED: Marianne Boyce

MAJORITY VOTE AND MOTION PASSED.

5. Open Discussion

(a) Parent council has been approached by parents concerned that older students have been leaving the school property for various reasons unrelated to school activities. It was noted that concerned parents should contact Mr. Battaglia.

Meeting concluded at 8:20 pm.

Next Meeting Scheduled for February 24, 2015 – 7:00pm in Library