

Bedford Park School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 26th, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

1. Council Update – Cindy McKay and Marianne Boyce

(a) End of School BBQ – Kevin Battaglia - We are staying with the same catering company. Numbers need to be in by Monday night to finalize. The BBQ will start at 5 pm and there will be a STEM parent child challenge and glee club presentation during the event.

(b) Lunch Program Update – Kirsten Moore – The vendor had an on site visit recently and approvals are expected shortly. It was agreed that it would be good to have a trial before the end of the school year and it would be beneficial to form a small committee to assist with the school lunch program.

(c) Teacher Appreciation Lunch – Details will go out through class parents this week. The event will be catered this year however Parent Council would like parent volunteers to help run the lunch and provide some baked goods, paper plates etc.

2. School Update - Kevin Battaglia

(a) Work Action Strike – EQAO is not being written this year because of the strike and it is not known whether report cards will go out, or whether the format of the report cards will be modified. On June 1st things could escalate however the details are not clear. It is possible that the strike will not be resolved until late summer and there could therefore be issues early next year. Concerns were raised over the New York City trip, and particularly whether refunds would be available in the event it is necessary to cancel and contingency plans are in place.

(b) Social Media Presentation – The Social Media presentation was well received and the content was interesting.

(c) Addition – The completion date for the addition is set at July 28th. The asbestos has been removed and air testing has been conducted. It is unlikely that the portables will be required next year however they will stay up until after Labour Day at which time a decision will be made.

3. Budget Update – Megan Segsworth

Very few changes to the budget were made for next year. The Community Outreach amount was changed from \$1000 to \$3000. The total can be used if proposals are made and if the amount is not spend it will go into the surplus. A further \$500 for the Principal's discretionary was also allocated. It was predicted that the spending on phys ed would be made prior to the end of the year. The amount allocated for music was not spent. Questions arose regarding whether the current music program is sustainable. It was agreed that the amount allocated for the BBQ, teacher appreciation and other social

events should be \$800. Not all teachers have spent their allocated amount for the classroom.

Questions from the Floor – Is there a way to encourage teachers to spend their allocation? It was noted that teachers get numerous letters and visits throughout the year. The non-use of the allocation doesn't necessarily mean teachers aren't spending on the classroom but rather they could be spending their own funds. A further question arose as to whether there is an easier way for parents to provide money to the school, as an alternative to cheque writing. Parent Council has previously considered alternatives but they add further complications and ultimately are too expensive.

4. Other Business

(a) Turf Update – Terence Adams – In 2013 the seeding of the field did not take and the field was out of use for a long period of time. Terence reviewed and summarized the three options potentially available going forward:

Reseeding – the TDSB plans to reseed the field based on the written recommendation of the Guelph Turf Grass Institute. The seeding will involve a different process and seed combination. The seed combination will include Kentucky Bluegrass (improves traction and recovers bare areas), Perennial Ryegrass (quick uptake and provides durability, and minimizes impact of Blue Grass diseases), and Fescue (resistant to drought). Grooves will be cut in the field and the seed will be planted in one day. The seeding will take place in the next few weeks. Mr. Battaglia was not able to determine whether there is asphalt or concrete under the field however it is assumed that this information is not relevant. The TDSB will cover the cost of seeding and Mr. Battaglia will look into watering requirements, if any.

Sodding – cost has not yet been considered however watering could present difficulties.

Artificial Turf – The TDSB will endorse the use of artificial turf for high intensive use playgrounds, for example John Wanless, where the field space is small. The TDSB prefers that these schools partner with a non-profit organization such as LPAA however these organizations would require the use of the field on weekends or evenings. Unfortunately our field is not considered a high intensive use playground by the TDSB. For a field our size the estimated cost of installing artificial turf is approximately \$500,000, however there are strategies available to defer costs if necessary. The TDSB has indicated that there are no health issues associated with artificial turf however no dogs/food are permitted on the turf. With respect to the maintenance costs, these are covered by the TDSB. The entire turf has to be replaced every twelve years and while the TDSB would not cover the replacement costs, these costs are significantly less than the initial installation

costs. A further noted disadvantage to artificial turf is the heat generated by the field which can be 20 degrees hotter than grass on a hot day.

It was agreed that the approach for now is to see how the seed does this fall and see whether the grass returns after the winter and reconsider sod or artificial turf at that time.

(b) Literacy Proposal – Allison Blight – A proposal was made to purchase Grade 2/3 enrichment kits and grade 1 books from the Nelson Literacy Program. The books have links to science and social studies and could be used as part of the Borrow-A-Book program. The books could be purchased in a bundle with each student having a book, and the teacher having a resource guide. The books are not workbooks and could be reused each year. The total cost for Grades 1-3 and the teacher kit is \$5564, however the cost of the teacher kit (\$600) would likely be covered by the TDSB.

(c) Math Proposal – Georgina Davis - A proposal was made to buy entrance fees for the Caribou Mathematics Competition, purchase a set of 30 calculators and buy numeracy themed books for children in grades k-2. These books would supplement the Borrow-a-Book program. Total cost of the program would be \$3,337.30.

(d) Sound Proposal – Catherine Wong - A proposal was made to purchase Hushh-ups (www.hushups.com), a tennis ball type object that is placed on the bottom of chairs as an effective way of controlling noise in the classroom. For a total of \$1200 each chair could be equipped with the product and the warranty is for two years.

It was decided that the proposals would be considered and a vote would take place in June once the surplus is determined.

Meeting concluded at 8:36 pm.

Next Meeting Scheduled for June 16th, 2015 – 7:00 pm in Library