



BEDFORD PARK

BEDFORD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

~ MEETING MINUTES ~

Tuesday October 10, 2017

6:30 Room 24

1. Council Update: Heather Turner

Heather Turner opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

1.1 A proposal for Parent Council membership for 2017/2018 school year was put forth:

- Cindy McKay – Chair
- Beth Lauer – Co-Chair
- Heather Turner – Treasurer
- Susan Sclater – Co-Treasurer
- Emma Kozak – Secretary
- Silja Yates – Member at Large
- Stephanie Phoenix – Member at Large

Clarifications were provided as follows:

- Everyone can vote other than student council and members of the teaching staff.
- There is no cap on members at large.

Upon motion duly made by Heather Turner and seconded by Silja Yates the proposed slate by unanimously adopted.

2. Council Budget Update: Heather Turner

2.1 Heather Turner put forth a motion to add the following members for signing authority at RBC:

- Emma Kozak – Secretary
- Cindy McKay – Chair

Upon motion duly made by Heather Turner and seconded by Silja Yates the addition of signing officers was unanimously adopted.

2.2 Heather Turner put forth a motion to remove the following members for signing authority at RBC.

- Heather Robertson
- Jeffry Graham
- Kas Singh Lingenfelter



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Upon motion duly made by Heather Turner and seconded by Marianne Boyce the removal of signing officer was unanimously adopted.

- 2.3 Heather Turner informed those present that there were no changes to the budget passed June 2017. The budget is available at all Parent Council meetings and in a binder in the School Office. Heather Turner advised the 1 year GIC for approximately \$15,000 will come due later in October and advised that the funds may be needed for the field project and therefore will be renewed on a 30 day term, rolling over every 30 days.

Upon motion duly made by Heather Turner and seconded by Silja Yates regarding acceptance of the budget and renewing the GIC for 30 days periods was unanimously adopted.

3. Council update – Heather Turner

3.1 Parent Council engagement in regards to the field rejuvenation project:

- Cindy McKay noted that a donation letter has not yet been released yet. It was noted that for this year, as the school is moving to Cash Online, donations will be eligible for a tax receipt. Note – donations from the donation letter last year were approximately \$15,000.
- As funds are required annually outside of the field project, there is the potential to use the \$15,000 GIC for the field.
- Melissa Ngo (melissalengo@yahoo.com) will solicit donations from the corporate sector within the community. Anyone aware of associations that may be willing to donate should contact Melissa.
- Cindy McKay advised that council should consider proceeding with a broad donation letter to parents but hold off on corporate donations. As well, volunteers will be requested to assist Melissa.

3.2 Cash Online

- Moving all transactions online including pizza lunch, field trips, apparel.
- Available in a few months.

3.3 Pizza Lunch

- Good feedback has been received regarding paying for all the pizza lunches at the beginning of the year rather than 3 months at a time.
- Anyone who did not sign up can do so via contacting the Pizza Lunch team (bedfordparkpizza@gmail.com) and/ or registering on cash online (once available) as long as its 2 weeks ahead of the next pizza date.
- The form will be added to the website.



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3.4 Community Night

- Looking for people to take over the organization of Community Night.
- The infrastructure is in place (small groups in place to cover various parts of the event organization) but need a leader or 2.
- Last year \$20,000+ was raised.

3.5 Parent Engagement

- Suggestion to ask Class Parents to attend council meetings or identify a grade rep and host a meet and greet night.
- Utilize any opportunities to talk about volunteerism.
- Integrate into the weekly message from Dima Nijmeh-Mantia.

4. School Update - Dima Nijmeh-Mantia

4.1 Field rejuvenation project.

- The school is progressing with rejuvenation collaboratively with all stakeholders in order to strategically use all the yard space and maintain functionality while maximizing usage for K to grade 8. There is a focus on sustainability by keeping existing healthy trees and removing infected ones.
- Timeline – anticipated to begin June 2018 and be complete by November 2018 but will depend on the scope and results of various stages such as soil samples.
- Students provided their input last year and meetings with the architect and board representatives are ongoing. Parent Council will be approached to raise a certain amount of funds in order to enhance the features put in place by the School Board.
- Areas that will be addressed in the rejuvenation:
 - Track
 - Slopes
 - Existing wooden stands – potentially moving them to a new location to make them more strategic.
 - Bypass between Wanless and Ranleigh.
- Early in 2018 is the estimate of when the financial commitment will be known. Funds raised by the school will only be used to purchase features or items such as basketball nets, not to fund labour costs. Full amount of funds is needed to be funded up rather than in stages.

4.2 Window replacement project.

- On target for original deadline of end of October 2017.
- Strict regulations on air quality are being adhered to and there was a special assessment at the end of September due to the unseasonably high temperatures.



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- Currently completing Phase 1 and measuring for Phase 2 which will start in the Spring of 2018.
- Blinds will be installed in rooms that don't have any or are ripped.

4.3 Painting.

- West stairwell completed.
- East stairwell is on the list to be completed.
- 2nd floor hallway slated for painting but waiting for the new grade 7/8 lockers to arrive that were ordered in June 2017.
- A suggestion was made to embark on beautification projects such as murals or sewing the Terry Fox flags together and perhaps forming a beautification committee. Dima Nijmeh-Mantia outlined that the school is receptive but stressed that beautifying the school needs to be done strategically and projects should be aligned to principles such as character development and the environment.

4.4 Student Council.

- Opened up to grade 6's this year.
- Involves submitting a resume and interviewing with Dima Nijmeh-Mantia.
- Class representatives and spirit representatives ensure there is input from all classes.

4.5 Lunch.

- Students eating lunch in their classrooms has reduced lunchtime problems by 70%.
- Students are finishing their lunch and are eating everything.
- Students are supervised by a lunchroom supervisor and a teacher on duty covers a few classes.
- The gym is being used for house leagues at lunch for Grade 3's and 4's currently but all grades will have the opportunity within the school year.
- Garbage reduction from 7 bags to 1. Less caretaker requirement (previously 40 minutes to set up/down for lunch in the gym).
- Many staff stay in their classrooms and eat with the students and there is strong communication between the teachers and lunchroom supervisors.
- Timeline:
 - 11:35 lunch start
 - 11:50 first bell – students who want to go outside may do so.
 - 12:00 any students still eating are gathered in the library or office.
- A suggestion was made to communicate the timeline and options to the younger grades who may think they have to go outside at the first bell and don't finish their lunch.



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5. EQAO results – Anthony Levy

- 5 – Day assessment.
- A year over year comparison is not the best measure of success as each cohort is different. The better comparison is the results of the grade 6 assessment in relation to the grade 3 assessment for the same students.
- The school looks for a 4 to 5 year pattern` and compares the results to report card marks.
- Bedford performed strongly in comparison to the Board and the Province.
- The school has ordered exemplars and other tools to assist teachers in the classroom in preparing for the EQAO.
- Goal is to move all the students up a level.
- Moderated marking against exemplar standards will help to remove any biases.
- A discussion arose as to whether any influence from enrichment could have affected results. Dima Nijmeh-Mantia suggested that not all enrichment requires students to address the open response but rather often focuses on memorization and it is difficult to know what the impact could be.
- A discussion arose as to whether technology plays a role in the writing results. Dima Nijmeh-Mantia suggested that the school focusses on finding the right balance.
- A discussion arose around why cursive writing isn't taught and is just a lunchtime activity. Dima Nijmeh-Mantia explained that cursive is not part of the curriculum and pointed out that the school has maintained agendas while other schools have gone paperless.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2017. Dates for further meeting will be posted in the Blues.

Meeting concluded at 8:30.