



# BEDFORD PARK

## BEDFORD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

~ MINUTES ~

Tuesday October 23, 2018

6:30pm Library

### Attendees

<u>Beth Lauer (Chair)</u>	<u>Members at Large:</u>	<u>Nicole Cairns</u>
<u>Janice Barnett (Co-Chair)</u>	<u>Samara Enchin</u>	<u>Nadira Cavers</u>
<u>Cindy McKay (Past-Chair)</u>	<u>Salmaa Muhammad-Gold</u>	<u>Zhenzhen Ni</u>
<u>Sue Sclater (Treasurer)</u>	<u>Kathy Clark</u>	<u>Yuhao Chen</u>
<u>Janet Fong (Secretary)</u>	<u>Silja Yates</u>	<u>Geraldine Vignau</u>
<u>Dima Nijmeh-Mantia (Principal)</u>		
<u>Melissa Berger (Vice-Principal)</u>		

### Regrets

<u>Emma Kozak (Co-Treasurer)</u>		
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- Call to order at 6:31pm
- Beth Lauer welcomed everyone.

### **Dima Nijmeh-Mantia welcomed everyone and provided a school update**

- There are three committees: Literacy, Numeracy, and Wellness; each committee has a goal for the 2018-2019 school year.
  - Literacy - purchasing a piece of literacy that can be used from kindergarten to grade 8
  - Numeracy - working with a learning coach, to look at math manipulative (previously looked at math diagnostic)
  - Wellness - Wellness day was well received and aspects will be included in the classrooms daily
- There were questions and discussions regarding the maintenance and caring of the turf field (i.e. the cleaning of leaves, having by-law signs, no gum chewing)
  - o If there are any sightings of vandalism on the school property, the community is asked to call the TDSB emergency number at (416) 395-4620 or the police.
- Dima thanked Cindy McKay and Beth Lauer for organizing and arranging the plaques. Informed Council that an opening/closing ceremony is being planned for November during the school day. Looking to invite the Mayor, Trustees and Councilors (both current and elect).
- No new capital projects have been planned; waiting for the Premier's directions. It was noted there are still some windows and part of the roof that has not been



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replaced. It was also advised that meetings have been arranged to look at the upper playground with Ranleigh Rascals.

- Dima advised there have been a couple of holes inside the school that have been created by the students.
- There were discussions regarding the use of cell phones and it was shared that cellphones are not allowed during morning & afternoon recess so to encourage the students to interact with other students, but are allowed during the lunch time recess. It was noted that the field is being well utilized as the students are not on their phones but playing on the fields and attending clubs.
  - o Discussions were raised as to whether to have a sweeping statement to disallow cell phones while on the school premise but it was noted that this would be hard to enforce as there are fewer lunch staff than teachers.
  - o It was reiterated that the school's guiding principle: "Respect, Responsible and Safety"; should be applied by the students and that they should have/develop self-regulation on how much time they should spend on their cell phones.

## **Council Update (Beth Lauer & Janice Barnett)**

- Janice introduced the members of the parent council for 2018-2019:
  - o Co-Chairs: Beth Lauer and Janice Barnett
  - o Past-Chair: Cindy McKay
  - o Treasurer: Sue Sclater
  - o Co-Treasurer: Emma Kozak
  - o Secretary: Janet Fong
  - o Members at Large: Salma Muhammed-Gold, Samara Enchin, Kathy Clark, Silja Yates
- Beth introduced Nadira Cavers from the school website team who spoke about how the web team sources its information for Parent Council; via the Blues (Blues is managed by Beth and Dima) and posts a PDF version and itemized events into the online calendar. Nadira also shared that the school website gets about 400 hits a week and that they can also help to advertise or promote through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. There are parameters for posting (no posting of childrens' names, no promotion of businesses etc). The contact for the web team:  
[bedfordparkps.tor@gmail.com](mailto:bedfordparkps.tor@gmail.com)
  - o It was advised a representative from the web team will also attend the monthly Parent Council meeting.
  - o Sign up for the Blues can be found on the school web page.
- Janice provided an update on the PRO (Parent Reaching Out) Grant and that the grant is currently on hold. Application for 2018-2019 was previously made by Cindy McKay for a speaker to come this year so we may not be able to take advantage of the resource from PRO Grant (prior year amount was approx. \$2,300 but current indicated a max of \$1,000) however this will not prevent Parent Council to invite a speaker or provide a workshop. A survey may be sent out to gather input from



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parents regarding what topics they want to hear. Possibly engage Paul Davis again to speak about Social Network Safety.

- o Dima also shared that police presentations are also an available resource as well as looking at other “free” intermediaries (e.g. assistive technology)
- o Possibility to share fees of speaker with another school
- o Can find budget for this and possibly supplement with a nominal fee per head for attendance.
- o If using the school facility for a function after hours, the school can permit the space but requires a teacher to attend so no additional costs are incurred.
- Looking for fundraising ideas (currently we have direct donation letter; community night and pizza lunches).
  - o Direct donation letters to come in the next couple weeks
  - o Community night date TBD
  - o Possibly a community BBQ in the Spring as there is lots of interest
- School-wide art project was planned for last year but it got too busy so we are doing it this year. Will be engaging Nancy MacDonald to brain storm on this project and it will be installed/displayed in the basement along the “haunted hallway” section (hall running north-south under the office). This has been budgeted for.
- Mr. Pimentel’s presentation will happen next meeting.
- Pizza lunch - Cash Online was a problem for October’s order but this has been rectified; rest of the year is fine and each order will cover 3 months with the exception November & December; at this point there is no option to opt in part way through a 3-month term however if there are concerns please reach out to BedfordParkPizza@gmail.com
  - o participation rate for cash on line was 80% during April of last year. (Subsequent to this meeting, the current stat has been provided at 91.77%).

## Approval of Minutes

- Beth Lauer motioned the minutes from last meeting to be approved and this was seconded by Sue Sclater.

## Budget Update (Sue Sclater)

- Starting November will provide a one-liner in the Blues to indicate what funds were used for the month.
- Up to last week, funds were used to purchase: 20 soccer balls; freezies for Terry Fox run; science lab for grades 7 & 8; and butterfly kits for grade 1.
- Will be attending the teacher’s meeting on Thursday to share the budget with them and let them know the parameters (e.g. has grouped all three areas into one to apply/spend money so that the funds can be easier to access for enrichment).
- Fund raising has begun for Grade 8 Graduation. Parent Council contributes \$1,500. There will be no sale of poinsettia this year but there will be bake sale at the



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Christmas concert. (Subsequent to this meeting, it was advised there will be poinsettia for sale).

## **New Business**

- Cathy Clark provided an update on the “Lunch Lady” program. Not going to happen as not enough time and logistically challenged; not a feasible option.
- There were discussions regarding providing an additional sub-day for fundraising (but this is not currently needed by fundraising and would more be to accommodate parents who are looking to pack fewer lunches).
  - o This has been looked into previously and major issues identified included, logistical concerns, environmental concerns (garbage), and health concerns (not promoting healthy option). A survey was also completed and there was not enough interest. Parent volunteer lunch program is not viable at Bedford at this time.
  - o Propose to survey the school again.
  - o Consider “Fresh from the Farm” fundraising for next year.
- Another fundraising idea - talent show.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm

Next meeting date: **November 20, 2018**