



BEDFORD PARK

BEDFORD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

~ MINUTES ~

Tuesday February 22, 2022

7:00pm – **Parent** Council meeting

Parent Council Email: bedfordparkpc@gmail.com

Instagram Account: [@bedfordparkps](https://www.instagram.com/bedfordparkps)

Attendees

<p>Gillian Mar (Co-Chair) Lesley Dyer (Co-Chair) Yvonne Chao (Treasurer) Janet Fong (Co-Treasurer) Vikki Shimoda (Secretary) - Absent Anita O'Connor (Outgoing Co-Chair) Janet Stone (Outgoing Co-Chair)</p>	<p><u>Members at Large:</u> Samara Enchin Susan Sclater - Absent Crystal Harrop (Secretary) Jennifer Duxbury Jennifer Dufresne Jennifer Morawetz Sherryl Woodward Sarah Bovaird Laura Barnett - Absent Rob Fulford - Absent</p> <p><u>Administration:</u> Susan Pitre Melissa Berger Kendra Hatch</p>	<p><u>Other Attendee's:</u> 14 non-members (Listed at the bottom in Appendix A)</p>
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1. Call to order at 7:05pm

2. **Welcome** – Lesley Dyer & Gillian Mar

- **Agenda Review**
- **Previous minutes approval – January 25, 2021**
 - i. Motioned by: Lesley Dyer McCabe
 - ii. Seconded by: Yvonne Chao

3. **Administrative Welcome**

- **Land acknowledgement** – Melissa Berger
- **Welcome** – Susan Pitre



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4. Administrative Updates – Susan Pitre & Melissa Berger

- **Covid Updates**
 - i. Today was the day students could move between online and in person learning and Bedford has gained a few new/returning students back in several classrooms
 - ii. Bedford is still following both Toronto Public Health and TDSB guidelines - the main difference is that although not required, TDSB is allowing principals to send email informing class (all parents) if there is an identified case of covid in the class
- **Extracurricular Activities**
 - i. February 18th update from TDSB - teachers will be made aware of changes at this week's staff meeting on Thursday
 - ii. Elementary can begin practices and intramurals for some sports i.e. badminton and clubs
 - iii. Note in operational guidelines that decisions regarding inter-school competition is "coming soon"
 - iv. Regarding parent involvement or teachers starting activities: Mme. Pitre has not had parents contact her but they would be open to it with police checks etc. and Mme. Hatch mentioned that as this is new information that teachers will be discussing at their staff meeting on Thursday, potentially more will be starting soon
- **Field Trips**
 - i. January 21st most recent update
 - ii. Walking trips can occur in community
 - iii. Predominantly outdoor field trips can be booked and will be gradually reintroduced with transportation (with masks on transportation)
 - iv. For now, cohorting must be maintained
 - v. Regarding overnight trips, hopefully a decision soon as well
- **Facility Update (Susan Pitre)**
 - i. Bedford has received approval for grants and has been given funds to redesign the Library Commons
 - ii. They are set to meet with an interior designer in the next couple of weeks to start design of library
 - iii. Cameras for property are still being waited on - Judy has been asking purchasing department every other week
- **Academic update (Melissa Berger)**
 - i. Continuing with school improvement planning
 - ii. Continuing work with Alannah David on Inclusion and Belonging - will do some goal setting with her at upcoming staff meeting



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- iii. Grade 8 team working on course selections for next year and secretarial staff working to make sure Grade 8s have smooth transition

5. Parent Council update

- **Grade 8 Grad Committee – (Sally Brooks)**

- i. Silent Auction

- 1. Amanda Pak, Linda Wong and Christie and Sally have been working to get auction up to support this year's Grade 8 grads
 - 2. The auction can be supported by the whole school, not just Grade 8 parents - please spread the word to encourage donations from anyone
 - 3. Currently have 16 items, goal is 30 - items include gift cards or different gifts or lessons from places such as LCBO, Melmira, Panda Mandarin, snowblower from McCann Realty, Friendly Butcher, Freehand, sunglasses (Martin Tang), Salt Fine Jewellery

- ii. Other Grade 8 news

- 1. Sally talked to Temple and Temple (company that runs Grade 8 trips to Quebec City, etc.) and they are working closely with TDSB, feel positive that they will be able to make a trip potentially happen at the end of the year!
 - 2. **Question (Samara E)** regarding possible date of Grade 8 Grad - Mme. Pitre said decisions will be made likely mid-late March, they are bookmarking June 28th
 - 3. Grad Committee is engraving unisex bracelets with "Bedford Grads 2022" - black and silver with plate to engrave - some will be ordered for teachers too

- **Class Liaisons – (Lesley McCabe)**

- i. Thank you for all coming forward, we really appreciate having class parents step up to support teachers!

- **Community Night - (Gillian Marr)**

- i. Night usually held in April indoors at Bedford, this year looking at outdoor options, possibly in May and exploring some alternatives to the traditional community night



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- ii. Looking for volunteers to spearhead: running games, finding corporate donations - food etc, any kind of sponsorship and support
 - iii. **Question (Anita O)** whether council chairs are spearheading or someone else? The council chairs would love if some people step forward and they can support as much as possible.
 - iv. Mme. Pitre - no word yet from TDSB on possibility of fun fairs but sincerely hopes it will be able to happen, can't wait to be part of one
- **Lunch Program – (Gillian Marr)**
 - i. Parents Interest – Council is trying to gauge if this would be something parents are interested in - several parents (5-6) expressed interest in the chat
 - ii. Anita O and Beth L can pass on information if anyone tries to organize as they tried a few years ago and came across problem as Bedford does not have a real kitchen (or contact Beth L for info about pizza if pizza days are able to come back)
 - iii. The Lunch Lady suggested by several, thelunchmom.ca, Rose Reisman lunch program

6. Open Discussion and Questions

1. Any word on access to pool and community centre?

- No word yet, and even without, Bedford does not currently have the staff (they only have 1 lifeguard, they need 2)

2. Can we revisit possibility of having students eat snacks outdoors at recess?

Having spoken to other schools, they allow eating outside at recess.

(Samara E.)

- Regarding snacks, whole class can go out with teacher but there were safety concerns (either eating and running at same time, etc.) and garbage concerns
- Comment on chat (Michelle G) that the indoor only option means some kids won't eat their snacks, so either way some won't
- Mme. Pitre commented she has seen students separate/isolate themselves in order to feel comfortable to remove their mask and eat, everyone is trying to make it work and make sure kids get some food to fuel their brains



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3. Regarding the directive to students not to talk while eating at lunch - Are we really balancing the desire to limit covid spread with kids' mental health? For example, they can now go to full restaurants and cinemas and talk etc. (Barb Scarola)

- Mme. Pitre noted this was a good point. Currently this is a public health directive. We know there are significant mental health concerns and will be even more coming out of this.

4. Another important question regarding the move to encourage children to take masks off for facial expressions/mental health etc. Of course, wanting to honour where everyone is but help children who are suffering. What is the current directive of TPH and TDSB? (Dr. Stephanie Estima)

- Mme. Pitre noted that TPH put the guideline out regarding not talking at lunch and Mme. Hatch noted that children are eating, putting food in mouth, and then putting masks back on so they can talk at lunch
- Currently, children have option of masking outdoors (i.e. can be mask free outside)
- Singing and music is coming back

5. Any word on when pizza lunch will be back (Melissa W)

- Mme Pitre - not yet. Also remembers another school having great success with cookie sales if pizza days are hard to bring back

6. Will zones at school (cohorting) be removed anytime soon?

- Currently still with us, not sure

7. What is the TDSB mandate regarding masking outdoors?

- Outside in morning TDSB asks all to mask because everyone is out at same time however all other times students do not have to mask outside
- During recess/lunch etc, children have option to mask i.e. children can be mask free when they are outside



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7. Additional Questions Raised Post Meeting – To be addressed at the next Parent Council meeting.

- **PLAYGROUND ICE LEVELS:**
 - What is the solution or plan in place to address the current ice levels in the playground?
 - We understand that students' have not been permitted outside at lunch or recess due to this.
 - Parents have expressed to us safety concerns on both fronts; the levels of ice and the students are not allowed to get fresh air during the school day, please advise.

- **SOCIAL MEDIA INCIDENT:**
 - Other parents (outside of grade 7) have heard of the anti-Semitic social media incident which occurred but hadn't received any information about it. In the spirit of the larger school community, they were curious as to why they weren't notified, or it was mentioned last night?

- **PARENT VOLUNTEERS:**
 - You had touched upon the requirements for parents to be involved in any extracurricular activities. Could you please let us know what there so parents can be proactive to get that done should the need arise; Police background Check and what are the other criteria?

- **PARKING ON WANLESS:**
 - There is a designated school drop off zone on Wanless Ave. Is that TDSB or city's responsibility to remove the snowbanks? It took upwards of 2 weeks and caused significant congestion on that side of the school access points. There are still some residual banks left.

- **PINK SHIRT DAY:**
 - Why wasn't this on the calendar and communicated to the students and parents to participate in?
 - Can we hold our own day at the school to honour this?



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Appendix A

Attendees

Beth Lauer	Sally Brooks	Christopher Martins	Amanda Wang	Barb Scarola
Kristi Murl	Stephanie Estima	Emma Kozak	Michelle Gregory	Linda Pak
Nicole Cairns	Min-Hien Le	Melissa Wilchesky	Stephanie	