

## **Beverley Acres Public School Council Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 26, 2023

Location: School Library

Time: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

### **In attendance:**

School Staff: Sandy Kofalvi, Melissa Doucas, Voula Divetta

Parents: Bianca Scuric, Deepshika Swaroop, Tharshini Tharmalingam, Mounika Sourial, Sushma Kavikondala, Sanaz Sadeghi,  
Julie Mahfouz-Rezvani and Carmen Lam

Regrets: Shabbir M. Zavery

### **1. Welcome/Introductions:**

Welcome statement by Sandy, followed by the reading of YRDSB land acknowledgement and YRDSB ancestral land acknowledgement. Members introduced themselves. Sandy informed us that school is looking for an indigenous school liaison.

### **2. Council elections:**

Elections were held for the executive roles within the council and possibility of other council roles to support parent engagement and fund-raising initiatives like STEM night, movie night, BBQ evening, school fair etc. were discussed. The 2023-24 school council members are as below:

- Co-Chairs): Bianca Scuric and Deepshika Swaroop
- Treasurer(s): Tharshini Tharmalingam
- Co-Secretaries: Mounika Sourial and Sushma Kavikondala
- Parent engagement/fund-raising committee: Sanaz Sadeghi, Shabbir M. Zavery, Julie Mahfouz-Rezvani and Carmen Lam

### **3. Principal's and Teacher's Report:**

Sandy and Melissa (Teachers' representative) gave a short report on the various activities within the school

- Student leadership committees for Grades 6-8: 120 students have joined 6 committees (Equity and Inclusivity, Mental Health and Well-being, School Spirit & Ambassadors, Fundraising, Media and Communications and Athletics)
- Grade 8 music band has started
- Healthy Schools Student Club initiative has started
- Ongoing activities include cross-country running and flag football
- Terry Fox run/walk will be held on September 28, 2023 (Thursday) and the Truth and Reconciliation day on September 29, 2023 (Friday)
- Grade 6 to go on a field trip to Toronto Holocaust Museum on October 4-5, 2023
- Workshop on discrimination and bias by Tour for Humanity - Friends of Simon Wiesenthal was conducted for Grade 8
- Curriculum night and associated planning was discussed (details below)

#### 4. Curriculum night:

To be held on October 30, 2023. This year the curriculum night to include one hour (5pm – 6pm) of social activities with a pizza booth, cookies booth, school council booth, Richmond Hill Public Library (RHPL) booth and dancing/movement activity zone by Grade 8. School council to help with arranging volunteers to support the pizza and cookie selling activities – total of 4 volunteers for pizza and cookie booths and 1 volunteer for RHPL booth. To increase participation and awareness of the curriculum night, it was suggested that announcing the curriculum night and activities within the classes and getting kids engaged in the evening would be helpful. After the social activities (from 6pm onwards) parents and kids can go meet the teachers and have an informal chat with the teachers/administration.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report: NA

#### 6. Other Business:

- **Movie night:** To be discussed in the next meeting with possibility of one evening in early December 2023 and another evening in March/April 2024
- **STEM night:** Melissa suggested we have the STEM night in February to commemorate the Engineering Month observed by YRDSB. Details to be discussed in the next council meeting
- **School council meetings:** Mode of the meetings (in-person versus online via zoom/teams) was discussed and it was agreed that alternating the in-person and online meetings would be most beneficial. Dates for school council discussed for 2023 as below

- a. October 24, 2023 at 7pm (in-person)
- b. November 21, 2023 at 7pm

Sandy will reach out to Sheri Epstein, Principal at Langstaff SS to come and do a presentation/talk for parents about high school options at the next council meeting

- **Community engagement:** Adopting hybrid mode of school council meetings might encourage more participation. Alternating the meetings with in-person and online meetings would be helpful. Ideas such as having in class announcements on the various activities by council and/or engaging kids within classrooms on parent/community participation in council may help boost involvement were discussed. School council will have a volunteer form and other details available at the curriculum night council booth as well.
- **Pizza lunch:** Tharshini scouted other options for pizza lunch for the upcoming semester in 2024 and provided everyone present with pepperoni and cheese pizza slices from Papa Jones as tasters. Based on the popularity and number of participants for the current pizza lunch program, a decision on changing the pizza for the next year will be taken in the upcoming council meetings
- Google docs to be set up by Bianca for the council to use as the single source of various activity related documents

## 7. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8.30pm