

**BLACK WALNUT PUBLIC SCHOOL – Council Minutes**

January 16/2023

Meeting Format: Hybrid

**In Attendance:**

**Parents:** Jennifer Reitsma, Thanusha Jeganathan, Christine Malik, Ameena Saeed, Anna Leung, Stephanie Whittamore, Nassim Ghods, Arona Persaud, Sadaf Brar, Reshma Khan

**Teachers:** Radhika Batt, Siobhan Murley, Emily Boag

**Principal:** Vivienne Baines

**Vice Principal:** Krystal Chung

**Regrets:** Aldo Barovier, Arslan Ghani

**Land Acknowledgment**

- Krystal Cheung read the YRDSB Land Acknowledgement

**Approval of today's agenda** – Nassim Ghods and Thanusha Jeganathan

**Approval of November 2022 minutes** – Thanusha Jeganathan and Reshma Khan

**School Report** – Vivienne Baines/Krystal Chung/Emily Boag/Radhika Bhatt/Siobhan Murley

- Update provided re: 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Events will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup>, both during the day and evening. Spiritwear collection with logo update available in web store (opened last Monday and will close on Friday)
- Hot lunches are as follows: Tuesdays – Lunch Lady; Wednesday – Boston Pizza; Thursday – Kids Kitchen. Teams from vendors are currently overseeing organization and distribution of hot lunches. Moving forward, looking for help from school council.
- A music concert will be held on Feb. 23/2023 for students in grades 4-8. There may possibly be another concert planned for spring.
- Student numbers continue to grow; currently at approximately 730 students. Council will be provided with staffing updates. Staffing process for next year has already started.

### **Fundraising** – Emily Boag

- Each grade is working on creating themed baskets for raffle fundraiser to support the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Students will be asked to donate small items to be included in the basket. Raffle winners will be announced just before the March break. Volunteers needed to help package and decorate baskets.

### **Extra Curricular Activities** – Radhika Bhatt

- Many extracurricular sports activities and other clubs are active at this time including junior girls and boys volleyball, intermediate and grade 6 band, basketball, GSA club, Walking Wolverines and chess club.

### **Coding** – Siobhan Murley

- In collaboration with YRDSB curriculum consultant Dennis Stam, activities and devices have been purchased to enhance coding education at the school. There are also plans underway to start a Robotics club for students in grades 4-8. School will be applying for a \$5000.00 grant through Community Connected Experiential Learning STEM Grant Application.
- BWPS is requested support to purchase STEM equipment. Jennifer made motion to give \$1500.00 towards coding equipment that will be used school wide. Nassim approved. Reshma seconded. All members present in favour.

### **Treasurer's Report** – Jennifer Reitsma

- No changes declared from last meeting. The council balance remains \$1821.38.
- Question re: the need to have a residual/contingency amount in account discussed. Clarification that funds raised in school year should be used within the same year to support programs.

### **School Report** – Jennifer Reitsma

- Reminder to council members to be aware of social media posts re: school/activities and addressed as required.

### **Yearbook** – Reshma Khan

- Reshma and Stephanie Neveu will be meeting with Edge Imaging this week re: costs and options to create either a memory book or yearbook for this school year.

### **Fundraising Update** – Jennifer Reitsma

- The Make it Sow fundraiser will begin earlier this year - will start after March Break with seeds being delivered after around Easter weekend. Nassim will support this fundraising effort. Payment options for fundraiser to be determined – via cash online or through vendor. Less profit margin through vendor.

**Other:**

- There may not be enough students for overnight Grade 8 trip – families will be updated.

**Next Meeting:**

Next meeting – Monday February 6th, 2023 at 7pm. Meeting will be hybrid.