

BLACK WALNUT PUBLIC SCHOOL – Council Minutes

June 5th, 2023

Meeting Format: Hybrid

In Attendance (in person):

Parents: Jennifer Reitsma, Stephanie Whittamore, Lang Vu, Daniel Martin-Weaver

Teachers: Radhika Bhatt

Principal: Vivienne Baines

Vice Principal: Krystal Chung

In Attendance (virtual):

Parents: Anna Leung, Arona Persaud

Regrets: Arslan Ghani, Thanusha Jeganathan

Land Acknowledgment

- Krystal Chung read the YRDSB Land Acknowledgement

Approval of today's agenda – Stephanie Whittamore and Lang Vu

Approval of April 2022 minutes – Daniel Martin-Weaver and Lang Vu

School Report – Vivienne Baines

- Sad to report that Krystal will be leaving at the end of the school year in order to take on a VP role for two other schools in the region come September. This is very disappointing for BWPS as many of the staff and students have forged great relationships with her over the past year and her loss will be deeply felt. We wish her well at her new school! The formal announcement will be made later this week / in the June 9th Wolverine Weekly.
- Chunha Park will be our incoming VP and we will look forward to welcoming him.
- There will be one additional homeroom class starting in the 2023/2024 school year (increase of one from 29 to 30).

- Two new portables will arrive this summer. We have applied for one of them to be accessible.
- Thank you to everyone who came out to the 10th anniversary event – it was a fantastic turnout and was enjoyed by all. It was wonderful to see so many students and families, both past and present. Our staff worked for many months on this event, from food to décor to the artwork displays in the school, so we thank them very much for such a great event.
- Staff expressed gratitude for the staff appreciation event. They had time to truly enjoy it and reflect on a great past school year. The generosity from the school community was greatly appreciated.
- Events:
 - Discover Kindergarten and Transition to Grade 1 events took place last week, as did the concert
 - Grade 8s arriving back from Toronto this evening and will head to Niagara tomorrow.
 - Area and Regional track events this month
 - Kindie Concert on June 22nd
 - Grade 8 Graduation on June 27th (details coming very soon)
 - Noon dismissal on June 30th

School Council Report – Jennifer Reitsma

- Thanks to Vivienne and Krystal for a great school year
- Thanks to everyone who helped organize and set up the staff appreciation event. The staff were overwhelmed by how lovely it was.
- Starting in September, there will be parent engagement evenings planned in an effort to align with the Director’s Action Plan and BWPS’s School Plan.
- A parent survey has been included in the June 2nd Wolverine Weekly – please fill it out and encourage others to as well in order to give our school meaningful feedback for the upcoming year!

Fundraising Update – Jennifer Reitsma

- Contact Jennifer if interested in helping with Hot Lunches next school year. If School Council manages this process, it will be able to direct how the profits are spent.
- Vivienne commented that the commitment required from Council would be determining vendors, corresponding with selected vendor(s) to arrange menu/pricing/payment schedule, setting up School Cash Online if required, and liaising with families who have questions as required. Need to consider vegetarian and Halal alternatives in order to equitably serve our school population. We have formed a good relationship with Boston Pizza, to the point where they are willing to handle a lot of the legwork on the delivery days in terms of setup and distribution to classes.

- Stephanie volunteered to handle the administrative side of coordinating hot lunches for the upcoming school year. It was determined that Kids' Kitchen and Lunch Lady would be cancelled for at least the fall, and we will look into having two days with Boston Pizza and potentially one day with one other vendor that generates a meaningful profit for the school.
- Movie nights will be planned for the upcoming school year. A license covers one calendar year, so can likely schedule three movie nights, which would cover the cost of the license and generate a meaningful profit for the school. Parents will be invited to bring a picnic blanket and watch a movie with their kids in the gym. Age level of the movies will vary in order to attract different audiences from within the school population.
- May also consider a chocolate fundraiser in the upcoming school year.

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Reitsma on behalf of Arslan Ghani

- No changes in finances since last meeting.

Yearbook – Jennifer Reitsma on behalf of Reshma Khan

- Purchases are due by June 28th
- Pickup will be on September 22nd (first PA Day of 2023/2024 school year)

Final comments

- Radhika echoed Vivienne's comments about being sad to lose Krystal, the staff's appreciation for the thoughtful lunch, and the excitement from having such a lively and well-attended 10th anniversary event.
- Lang thanked Jennifer for all her time and contributions as School Council president, and everyone agreed!

Next Meeting: 2023/2024 School Year