

BLACK WALNUT PUBLIC SCHOOL – Council Minutes

October 2nd, 2023

In Attendance:

Parents:

In-Person - Jennifer Reitsma, Thanusha Jeganathan, Thasan Yogarajah, Mythilie Thasan, Amanda Ryan, Michelle Hale, Kirsty Lutley, Lang Vu, Daniel Martin-Weaver

Virtual: Aslan Ghani, Shehara Morrison, Andrea Chin, Nassim Ghods, Reshma Khan, Sadaf Joseph, Arona Persaud, Tazeen Siddiqui, Stephanie Whittamore, Olivia Chu Yau

Principal: Vivienne Baines

Vice Principal: Chunha Park

Regrets: N/A

Land Acknowledgment

- Jennifer Reitsma made welcoming remarks and read the YRDSB Land Acknowledgement

Approval of today's agenda – Jennifer Reitsma and Kristy Lutley

Approval of June 5,2023 minutes – Jennifer Reitsma and Thanusha Jeganathan

School Report – Vivienne Baines/Chunha Park

- Parent council meetings will move towards hybrid model as this offers access for more parents to attend.
- School reopening has been great so far and there was no need for a large reorganization this year; some students were shuffled to meet ministry requirements for class sizes.
- Grade 4/5 class which was located in library will be moving to a portable shortly.
- Many extra-curricular activities are back at BWPS including cross country. Other events such as Terry Fox run, fire drills and other compliance pieces have taken place.
- There are currently 739 students at BWPS.

School Council Report – Jennifer Reitsma

- Jennifer provided a brief update on last year's activities by parent council.
- Intentions of school council reviewed and various topics including fostering a positive school environment; ensuring diversity of school is represented at school council; as well as importance of fostering good relationships between staff and parent communities discussed.
- DR. ABC will be returning to school to engage with students.

Treasurer's Report – Arslan Ghani

- All council funds are handled by the office; the treasurer reports on current balance.
- The council balance is \$643.86 (carryover balance from last year).

Appointment of Executive Committee:

Chair - Jennifer Reitsma – all in favour

Vice Chair – Thasan Yogarajah – all in favour

Secretary – Arslan Ghani – all in favour

Treasurer – Thanusha Jeganathan – all in favour

Voting Members: Anna Leung, Shehara Morrison, Stephanie Whittamore, Reshma Khan, Kirsty Lutley, Daniel Martin-Weaver, Lang Vu, Michelle Hale, Amanda Ryan

Yearbook

- Reshma Khan and Stephanie Neveu recognized for putting together yearbook. It was a big effort.
- There was approximately 200 purchases for yearbooks – discussion took place re: if it was worth it to continue yearbooks and perhaps a memory book for grade 8 instead can be an option.
- Sadaf suggested a yearbook committee/club. A staff member must be willing to oversee this. More buy-in from staff and families required. Feedback from students needed - perhaps a poll from grade 8s to be considered.
- Discussion had re: affordability of yearbook. Prices of yearbook has gone up. More purchases lead to lower cost. This topic to be revisited.

Hot Lunches: Jennifer Reitsma

- Parent volunteers are needed to assist with hot lunches on Tuesday and Wednesday. The following parents have volunteered until the end of December 2023
 - Thanusha/Jennifer – Tuesday
 - Thasan/Mythilie – Wednesday

Fundraising Update

- School council would like to do more fundraising events this year – some ideas included a winter bazaar and movie nights, as well as a parent engagement night. More parent volunteers are required to organize events. Fundraising sub-committee will be implemented.

Other:

- Brief overview of School Council Policy #262 provided, along with a video presentation on school councils.
- Student council meetings will in the hybrid model this year to enable access for more parents. Meetings will be held at 6:30 pm.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting – hybrid meeting on November 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm