

**Bond Lake Public School  
School Council Meeting Minutes**

Monday, October 04, 2021

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Parents:</b> Kara, Lily, Sasha, Samantha, Shaffina, Shefali, Rojeen, Asha, Manimaran, Keivan , Arezoo, Pakiman, Decio, Arash, Colin, Stefanie, Hamed, Georgia, Mana</p> <p><b>Regrets:</b> Chris</p> <p><b>Administration:</b> Jackie Linton (JL), Nadine Pickthall (NP)</p>
<b>Notes</b>	<p><b>WELCOME</b></p> <p>Samantha welcomed parents and called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Nadine took us through a land acknowledgement.</p> <p>Samantha introduced Nadine and Jackie and parents had the opportunity to introduce themselves.</p> <p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p>The June 07, 2021, Bond Lake Public School Council Minutes were approved. Minutes on the website have only been posted up to October 2020. Jackie will double-check the publishing of minutes from Nov 2020-May 2021.</p> <p><b>UPDATES: Covid Protocols</b></p> <p>The same Covid-19 protocols as last year have continued to be reinforced, including sanitization, careful grouping, social distancing and no lunches/other materials to be dropped off at the school.</p> <p>Activities that have resumed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Restrictive cohorting is no longer required. While wearing masks, students can mingle with students from outside their own classroom.</li><li>- Vocal music (with 2 metre distance between students) and the use of instruments have resumed in the music class (although students will continue to not play any wind instruments).</li><li>- Some closer contact sports (i.e. basketball).</li></ul> <p>Class sizes remain large but this is mandated at the board level. JL &amp; NP have tried to move the larger face-to-face classes into bigger spaces, but space is also limited, all classrooms are being used including one portable. Exact numbers of students in the school were not available at the time of this meeting, but our student body has grown by one class. While in the school, students are expected to keep their masks on and maintain a distance of 1 metre; however masks can be removed during lunch time (while eating) and students are to remain seated at their desks; masks can also be removed when students are outdoors and can maintain a 2 metre distance.</p> <p>Extra-curriculars are on hold for now, as participation is always based on teachers volunteering their time. Teachers are overwhelmed with the extra demands of hybrid learning and covid protocols.</p>

Parents voiced that extra-curricular activities are important for the mental health and well-being of the children and would like JL to encourage teachers' participation. There was great interest expressed by parents for cross country to be brought back. JL reiterated that mental health & well-being for everyone including the staff is important and she is respecting the fact that teachers have to volunteer their time. Teachers will not be asked to lead extra-curricular activities; that has to be initiated by the teacher(s). A group of teachers have volunteered their time to organize and facilitate the Terry Fox Run at BLPS.

Parents asked if intermediate students could facilitate some extra-curricular activities, as a way of promoting leadership roles (especially given the easing of restrictive cohorting). JL noted that last year students were not permitted to help out other students; however, JL will need to follow-up on that possibility.

The school is still not permitted to allow visitors, so parents cannot step in to facilitate extra-curricular activities. Any external providers we choose to engage for programming for the students will have to be virtual for now. JL reminds us that things may change over time this year. Suggestions were brought forth for activities like Forest of Reading or a virtual book fair.

#### **UPDATES: Hybrid Learning**

Teachers are collaborating while maneuvering the new hybrid mode of learning. BLPS continues to take direction from the YRDSB; input from staff and parents is appreciated.

Are all classes hybrid? Yes, all teachers & classrooms are set-up to provide hybrid learning. Even in a classroom where all the students are F2F, any situation can change and require online learning. For example: if a child is required to isolate due to Covid-19 exposure, they can **immediately** move into the online learning platform. The link would be provided via Google classroom.

All teachers have been given the equipment needed to facilitate hybrid learning and to augment to the virtual classroom if and when needed. Materials include webcams and headphones with a microphone. While some digital projectors and smartboards are on their last legs and will be replaced, all classrooms are equipped to run a hybrid program.

#### **UPDATES: Re-organization & Class Sizes**

Class re-organizations took place across Ontario last week. This includes classes at BLPS. Teachers collaborated in the class re-organizations while following Ministry guidelines and taking into account the different students and cohorts. Those impacted by the re-organization have now been in their new classes for a week.

#### **UPDATES: Open House**

In lieu of an in-person open house, teachers will host a 30-minute, virtual meet and greet. Parents can attend using their child's Google Classroom account; however this opportunity may not be made available to all classes. Many teachers have already connected with the parents of their students, so teachers will not be required to host the virtual meet and greet. Details will be forthcoming.

#### **Mental Health in the Board**

The issues of student mental health, well-being and emotional connection is a priority for YRDSB this year. 30-40 minute lessons that incorporate MH awareness and skill development are being developed. The diverse needs of the students are being considered.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

JL provided a budget update. There is a current balance of \$10,739.95. The ProGrant reimbursement is not included in this amount as it was pending submission of the final report. We have earmarked \$5,000 for technology (to be utilized when the cost-sharing program with the YRDSB becomes available).

The school is currently taking inventory of their technology and checking that equipment are in good working order. Eg. Digital projectors and smart boards. Some devices are on their last legs and can only be used as whiteboards. Teachers that opted to have iPads or tablets are finding that this is no longer sufficient and are using the school chromebooks.

### **HOW BEST TO SUPPORT BLPS FAMILIES IN THE COMING YEAR?**

**Community Connection – chai & chat / twitter etc..:** We hope to continue some virtual social community events (including cultural events and chai 'n chat), as well as the peer mentorship program for parents who are English language learners. A note to place on the next BLPS school council (BLPS SC) meeting to add more cultural activities throughout the year and to decide on approximate dates.

**SpiritWear:** We will initiate new SpiritWear, as a BLPS SC fundraiser. Shefali and Kara will lead this initiative.

**Fundraising:** BLPS SC has asked BLPS staff and teachers what they need so we can help fundraise. Apart from technology, things to augment programs such as Phys Ed equipment, board games and books. A note that BLPS has a book fair credit of \$4395 to use on new books.

Parents expressed that they have books that they would like to donate to the school. The school appreciates that parents would like to make book donations however, in light of the current text selection tool being used by YRDSB, JL will reach out to teachers to see if there are specific book titles they may want for their classrooms. This will avoid the situation of the school gaining books that would need to be recycled.

**Learning Opportunities - Virtual Science Workshops – McMaster:** Virtual science workshops are available for grades K- 8. Teachers may register to access the virtual workshops which are designed to support the current Ontario science curriculum and enhance the curriculum connections with interactive learning pieces and activities.

We will re-apply for the **Canadian Space Agency Astronaut Virtual Visit** once the contest re-opens.

**Communications from BLPS SC:** We will continue to add content to the Weekly Wave and we will continue to post via our twitter account. We will explore some visual marketing strategies to showcase our events in an ongoing manner (with a calendar).

**Succession Planning:** Elections for the 2021/22 BLPS SC is scheduled for October 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47.

**NEXT MEETING – Monday, October 18, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**