

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

Monday, October 05, 2020

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (meet.google.com)

Attendees	Parents: Aby, Alecia, Chris, Kara, Lily, Rifath, Sasha, Samantha, Shaffina, Shefali Administration: Jackie Linton, Nadine Pickthall
Notes	<p>WELCOME Samantha welcomed parents and called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Samantha invited all the parents to introduce themselves.</p> <p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES The June 01, 2020 Bond Lake Public School Council Minutes were approved.</p> <p>SCHOOL UPDATES: Covid-19 Next to the one positive Covid-19 case of a staff member in Le Club (the before/after school program), there have been no absences due to Covid-19 at BLPS. The flow chart/guidance documents provided by York Region Public Health (YRPH) has been very informative. An updated <i>COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management</i> plan was released on October 01, 2020. The flowchart has been uploaded to the BLPS website.</p> <p>The article from the Richmond Hill Liberal was referenced to address community concerns expressed about the late notice regarding the positive Le Club case; Ms. Linton confirmed that the information she received came very late on Sunday evening and the announcement to the school community went out 45 minutes later.</p> <p>SCHOOL UPDATES: Re-Organizations & Class Sizes Concerns were raised about the timing of the reorganization with the school being under surveillance. Ms. Linton confirmed that class re-organizations are part of Board policy and Ministry guidelines; reorganizations typically happen prior to the end of September. BLPS lost 5 teachers after September 22, 2020 and as of October 5th. 35 students moved to the EVS necessitating class re-organizations under Ministry guidelines and YRPH physical distancing guidelines. Some split grade classrooms were created which now allows for better accommodations for students with special needs. The average class sizes are as follows: Kindergarten = ~20 students; Primary = ~15 students; and Junior/Intermediate = ~20 students.</p> <p>All decisions are made in consultation with experts from YRPH; the team checks in several times a week. BLPS has been assigned a Public health Nurse. A parent asked what the role of the Public Health Nurse is; Ms. Pickthall responded that the Public Health Nurse is a resource for BLPS.</p> <p>BUDGET A budget update was provided, and we have a healthy School Council balance of \$19,501.08. We anticipate a carryforward balance of ~\$5,000 for the 2020-21 school year, after accounting for the following outstanding expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>TD Friends of the Environment</u> – We have outstanding expenses valued at \$5,472.30 and we will purchase 3 additional trees costing approximately \$2,400

- Technology – School Council has earmarked a donation of \$5,000 to purchase new technology for students; this will be carried-forward until cost-sharing initiatives are available from YRDSB.

ELECTIONS: Nomination Forms & Voting Procedures

Six parents from the BLPS community have shown an interest in being a member of the executive committee. Ms. Linton will connect with each of them to confirm their interest and request a brief biography/statement of interest.

Ms. Linton will coordinate a Google Form (based on email address) to facilitate voting of the BLPS School Council (BLPS SC) executive members for 2020/21. All parents in the BLPS community will be able to vote and elect the executive, unless positions are to be acclaimed.

POLICIES: School Council Constitution

The Bond Lake School Council Constitution was distributed to members of the BLPS SC. It was decided that review and update of the School Council Constitution would be deferred to the next elected School Council Executive Committee.

POLICIES: BLPS Dress Code Update

Any updates to the current BLPS Dress Code have been deferred to the next council meeting. Ms. Linton was preparing to communicate the BLPS Dress Code expectation to students in a gender-neutral, culturally-sensitive manner later this week. Parents have asked for the school dress code to be reviewed and for Ms. Linton to review the Toronto District School Board's (TDSB) updated "Student Dress Policy". Ms. Linton will put off her discussion of dress code expectations with students to a later time, after she has reviewed the TDSB policy and the BLPS SC has had the opportunity to discuss at the next meeting. Dress guidelines for this year will remain status quo until changes are discussed.

UPDATES: Trees – Outdoor Classroom Phase 2

The Phase 2 trees will be planted before the winter.

UPDATES: Kindergarten Courtyard

The kindergarten courtyard can only be used for safe entry/exit as per a recent Board policy (Spring 2020); play needs to be done elsewhere. The tree structure is unsafe to climb, as there is wood rot, so it needs to be removed, the hill needs to be leveled and the courtyard repaved. A separate schedule has been devised for kindergarten classes to use the backyard. School Council wondered if SC funds could be used to revitalize the courtyard space. Ms. Linton confirmed that the cost to update the Kindergarten Courtyard could reach close to \$88,000. Therefore, there would be a need for significant consultations with parents and teachers, and board vendors.

Shade tents were purchased by Ms. Linton to offer portable shade structures (\$400.00a piece), to facilitate outdoor classrooms in the backyard. BLPS SC in previous years discussed shade structures and had agreed to plant trees instead of purchasing additional canopies. This discussion did not include purchasing more canopies for the Kindergarten Courtyard. Discussion regarding the revitalization of the Kindergarten Courtyard will continue at the next SC meeting.

UPDATES: How to Best Support Families in F2F & EVS

There was some discussion on how to ensure community building for both virtual and in-person students and their families. To not overwhelm virtual families and staff, we will put community building with the EVS on hold and focus on F2F students for now. The Weekly Wave will continue to be distributed to all BLPS families and all families will be invited to virtual Chai 'n Chat's.

Given that many students miss seeing their friends who are in EVS, we will plan some sort of virtual activity in January.

LOOKING FORWARD

- Fundraising: Ms. Linton questions if this is really the year to fundraise. Fundraising plans (if any) will be discussed by the new BLPS SC
- Digital Reading Resources for F2F: BLPS will be ordering an online subscription (online reading resource) for primary students. We are unaware of these types of literacy tracking resources for older students; older students have classroom book bins and are bringing personal books from home. There are many free resources available for older students (Overdrive Books, Khan Academy). Ms. Linton notes that there is no opportunity for synchronous learning at this time for students who are in F2F learning but away from school for different reasons.
- Weekly Wave Communications: Will continue to be sent to all Bond Lake families whether the children are studying F2F or in EVS. .
- Open House: There may be a Virtual Curriculum Night this year. , Parent-Teacher interviews will be held earlier than usual this year (Nov 12 or 13)
- Council Meetings: BLPS SC meetings will continue the 1st Monday of each month.

ITEMS TO BE TABLED FOR NEXT MEETING

- Virtual Open House in Fall 2020
- Update to School Council Constitution & Student Dress Policy
- Kindergarten Courtyard Revitalization

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

NEXT MEETING – set for October 19, 2020 @ 6:30 pm