

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

Monday, June 07, 2021

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Attendees	Parents: Chris, Kara, Lily, Sasha, Samantha, Shaffina, Shefali Administration: Jackie Linton (JL), Nadine Pickthall (NP)
Notes	<p>WELCOME</p> <p>Samantha welcomed parents and called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Jackie took us through a land acknowledgement. Land Acknowledge #1 is used for virtual like meetings – where we don't know the location of all members of the meeting. This piece will be discussed with parents to ensure that land acknowledgements are meaningful. Land Acknowledgement #2 refers to the acknowledgement of the land we are meeting on – would be in-person meetings. We also include Calls to Action.</p> <p>Lily called for a moment of silence to honour the 215 Indigenous children whose remains were discovered on the grounds of a residential school in Kamloops, B.C.</p> <p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>The May 03, 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>BUDGET UPDATE</p> <p>JL provided a budget update. Our starting balance for the year was \$19 501.08. With expenses of \$8761.13 (trees, Scientists in Schools, dance rental equipment, paint night etc...). Our closing balance is \$10 739.95. JL will send Shefali the budget.</p> <p>UPDATES: Year-End Update on Professional Development at BLPS</p> <p>BLPS will be painting murals on the school walls. The paintings/murals will be revolving, and the hope is that they will spur critical thinking. JL has narrowed down the options to a smaller set of pictures from which the staff will choose two. JL shared the possible mural options with BLPS SC and asked for SC to vote on their top two images. The mural options address issues ranging from equity & diversity to mental health and body image – the murals challenge the viewer to question and unlearn biases. Murals will be 4 feet x 6 feet. They will be placed in high traffic areas of the school – eg. the front foyer, library hall, opposite the gym or the hall leading to the parking lot (unlearn.com: https://forms.gle/eNx3JEaoZGS8zKtN9).</p> <p>Staff at BLPS have been discussing issues about re-integrating kids back into school and possible social divisions between 2020/21 virtual students versus the 2020/21 F2F students. This is being considered when discussing class placements for the 2021/22 school year.</p> <p>UPDATES: Story of Racism Collection Process</p> <p>The potential Town Hall to collect stories about racism at BLPS has been put on hold, as the superintendent was concerned about possible anger and blame. However, we cannot combat racism at BLPS unless we hear the first-hand stories. On June 16 & 17, JL will arrange for parents to meet with NP, JL and the superintendent to tell their stories about racism at BLPS. They have opened up 4 meeting spots over the 2 days. They are starting out small due to the emotional energy that it takes. Parents can also share their stories anonymously.</p>

Question: How will this be anonymous if families must sign up for a time slot?

Response: Families can sign up anonymously if they like.

Question: For children with a traumatic experience, is there access to professional aftercare?

Response: Parents are being asked to share their stories, not the children.

Question: What happens after the stories have been shared?

Response: Many educators think racism is not an issue within their own schools, therefore, asking BLPS parents to share their own personal (or family) experiences/stories, can provide some real insights and a different perspective. Subtle racism, along with intent and impact need to be looked at. After collecting a body of evidence, JL & NP will discuss the findings with the BLPS community, while maintaining privacy. There are some patterns that will be addressed and anticipated (i.e., n-word still gets used at this school). Actionable items that can be tackled will create a culture where people feel safe to share their stories. The Principal and VP, JL and NP aim to build and repair bridges, if necessary. York Region police could also do a presentation about hate so parents can understand the reality of what their kids face at school.

UPDATES: Mentored Chats – ESL: Chris has continued to participate in this initiative and has noted that it has been a positive experience for him. He would like to have the opportunity to schedule more face to face meetings in the future. BLPS will continue the event next year when new parents/families join our school.

Next School Council Initiative: Intermediate Student Event

To foster engagement within the intermediate grades, a virtual event will be planned, in collaboration with Ms. Aggarwal, Ms. Brancato and the Student Leadership Team. The event is planned to occur in June. Shefali will connect with Ms. Brancato/Ms. Aggarwal about engaging the Student Leadership Team in the planning of the intermediate event. Parent volunteers are requested to supervise the break-out rooms to ensure that the students are present and adhering to school and virtual communication norms.

Graduation

Graduation will happen in June, and it is unclear if it will be in-person or virtual. There may be a drive-by opportunity for pictures. Nothing more to share yet. There will be a pre-recorded graduation session with a live and interactive after-party for students and staff only. Teachers will be creating a memory book for the Grade 8s, with a slide show in print form. Staff and faculty have decided not to make the event too big this year, if this didn't happen for students in the past. There will not be any cookies provided.

Backyard – Phase 1 Trees

Caretakers will handle the watering of trees over the summer. The trees have been sprayed, but the gypsy moths have really been attacking them and it is unsure whether they will survive. The Impact Report is still pending and hopefully we can get some pictures of the trees. Shefali and Samantha will check the trees to see what can be done to help them survive.

Reports

The PROgrant report is now complete. Samantha is working on the TDFEF report. The final pending report is the end of year report and JL will keep an eye on it and send it along for completion.

Other

Student and family surveys are available for everyone to complete until June 14th, 2021.
If anyone is interested in joining PEAC please connect with Shaffina.

Succession Planning

First 2021/22 BLPS SC meeting (virtual) is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 13th, 2021.

Chris asked if there is a plan for a teacher's appreciation? Not at this time - but we greatly appreciate them and all of the work that they have done this year to keep our children learning and safe.

ADJOURNMENT

Samantha thanked the SC and administrators for all the hard work that they put into making this year so successful.

Nadine thanked council and especially Samantha for leading such a wonderful council during one of the most challenging years!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01.

***NEXT MEETING – tentatively Monday, September 13, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**

*Meeting has been rescheduled to **Monday October 4, 2021.**