

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

Monday, March 01, 2021

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Attendees	<p>Parents: Lily, Sasha, Samantha, Shefali Staff: Sahar Afshar Administration: Jackie Linton, Nadine Pickthall Regrets: Chris, Kara, Shaffina</p>
Notes	<p>WELCOME Samantha welcomed parents and called the meeting to order at 6:30pm</p> <p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES The February 01, 2021 Bond Lake Public School Council Minutes were approved.</p> <p>BUDGET There was no budget update.</p> <p>COVID-19 SCHOOL EXPOSURE Ms. Linton advised the School Council that there has been two (2) positive Covid-19 cases at BLPS (from the same family). Children from 2 classes and multiple faculty and staff have been exposed and will be in quarantine from March 02 – 15, 2021. This includes both Ms. Linton and Ms. Pickthall. York Region Public Health would be sending notifications to all families with children who were exposed to the positive Covid-19 cases, with the requirements to quarantine for 2 weeks.</p> <p>UPDATES: School Platform Change A total of 45 children chose to change school models. BLPS had 30 students leaving in-person learning for virtual school and 15 students returning to in-person learning. There was no need to re-deploy any staff or change the composition of any classrooms.</p> <p>UPDATES: Supports for Parents Learning English Ms. Linton and Ms. Pickthall have coordinated peer groups for BLPS parents interested in learning/practicing their English language skills. If any parents are still interested in volunteering to provide peer support, they should connect directly with Ms. Linton.</p> <p>UPDATES: Black Excellence at Bond Lake In response to continued evidence of anti-Black racism in Canadian institutions, the York Region District School Board (YRDSB) has unveiled its "dismantling anti-Black racism strategy," that will be implemented over five years. The Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy: Creating anti-racist and Black-affirming learning and working environments was co-developed by York Region Black community leaders, YRDSB staff and in consultation with students. The launch of the strategy marks a coordinated effort to address anti-Black racism at the Board.</p> <p>The strategy was developed in response to continued evidence of anti-Black racism in YRDSB schools. Ms. Linton shared ways that the strategy will positively impact the curriculum through instruction and resources available to students. BLPS is committed to ensuring that this learning is continued throughout the year as classrooms continue to celebrate Black Excellence, while challenging students to analyze their own bias.</p>

On March 08, 2021 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. students, staff and families are invited to the virtual Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy launch event featuring guest presenter Robyn Maynard. The program will examine anti-Black racism in educational institutions and unveil the Board's strategy. The strategy is designed to dismantle anti-Black racism in all its forms in our schools and workplaces. The systemic nature of anti-Black racism requires that school boards act proactively to support equitable access to quality education and opportunities for all students, and to challenge the marginalization of Black students, staff and families. Families are invited to visit www.yrdsb.ca for more details and to register for the event.

BLPS Virtual Lunar New Year - Review

This event was held on Tuesday, February 09, 2021 at 6:30pm. The event was successful and was attended by 20 BLPS families, our School Administrators, and the new School Trustee, Simon Cui. Ms Ge did a wonderful job organizing the celebration. We appreciate and sincerely thank Ms Ge for working with School Council on this initiative. All feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Celebration of Culturally Significant Dates

BLPS SC will work with Ms. Afshar and Lily, a school council member, to coordinate a virtual celebration of Nowruz 2021 (Persian New Year) to be held on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:30pm. The one-hour event will allow BLPS families to participate in storytelling, music and crafts.

PROgrant – Update

We have been successful in procuring a \$500 PROgrant to cover some expenses from our Family Paint Night. We will need to submit a final report and obtain some feedback from our participants.

Next School Council Initiative

To foster engagement within the intermediate grades, the BLPS SC would like to host a Virtual Games night or a Virtual Escape Room for students in grades 6-8 in April. BLPS SC has reached out to Mrs. Brancato about engaging the Student Leadership Team in the planning of the intermediate event.

Future Event Ideas

Virtual Escape Room/Games Night for Intermediate Students
Additional Virtual Paint Nights
Healthy Relationships Workshop – to be discussed further in April

Communication of New Routines – messaging

BLPS SC has offered to support the messaging regarding new Covid-19 routines to the BLPS community (parents & students). This could include signage about wearing masks on school premises and directions for students.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07.

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NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, April 6, 2021 @ 6:30 pm