

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

Monday, May 03, 2021

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Attendees	Parents: Kara, Lily, Sasha, Samantha, Shaffina, Shefali Administration: Jackie Linton, Nadine Pickthall Regrets: Chris
Notes	<p>WELCOME Samantha welcomed parents and called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Sasha started with a land acknowledgement.</p> <p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES The April 07, 2021, Bond Lake Public School Council Minutes were approved.</p> <p>BUDGET There was no budget update.</p> <p>UPDATES: Professional Development at BLPS</p> <p>Ms. Linton outlined some of the anticipated professional development (PD) training for the BLPS staff. This was being shared in advance of the BLPS staff seeing it.</p> <p>In order to prevent inequitable learning opportunities at the YRDSB, and to critically analyse the inner workings of the school board while calling to action different strategies (Dismantling Anti-Black Racism, Islamophobia, Indigenous Issues to name a few), leadership has directed schools to continue culturally relevant pedagogy while also ensuring that student voices are heard. This remains part of the Director’s Action Plan. Therefore, BLPS will be adopting the use of a new text-selection tool for deciding what literature/texts are used during the school year. This tool will challenge educators to select newer texts, Canadian literature and text written by authors from diverse cultures (for example, we would want to select a book focused on Indigenous Issues, that is written by an Indigenous author). The application of the tool involves focused discussion.</p> <p>When selecting texts, we want to ask certain questions like: How did you feel when you recognized yourself in a book for the first time? How does a certain book contribute to student achievement and well-being and what role does it play in our collection of literature? Is the text that you have selected appropriate for the students you are teaching this year?</p> <p>The text-selection tool is meant to interrogate the text for the group of students being taught right now, not 3 years ago. The tool will help educators examine the portrayal of characters in consideration of triggers, global impact and context. With the text as a teaching tool, educators would position the book in context and ensure learners understand the characters presented are not a blanket representation of a certain group of people.</p> <p>This tool will be used for the selection of classroom books and class read-alouds, but not necessarily for the books that are available in the BLPS library.</p>

UPDATES: September Class Placements

Reminder that the google document for class placement requests should be completed and submitted by May 14th. There are currently no decisions on whether school in September will be face-to-face or virtual. Therefore, BLPS is moving forward with the assumption that we will be returning to school, in-person, in September. Surveys on parent and student experiences with online learning will be sent out to parents shortly.

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.

School Council Initiatives: Healthy Relationships Workshop

While Lily and her colleagues are ready with materials for public education, it has been decided that the Healthy Relationships Workshop will be pushed to the 2021/2022 school year, due to emotional exhaustion by all members of our community. Lily will instead, provide Ms. Linton with some visual and meaningful posters to distribute via the Weekly Wave. We will follow up with an event in the Fall of 2021.

School Council Initiatives: Astronauts in the School

We were not successful in our application for the "Astronaut in the School" program. The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) awards 2 schools per province. If a staff member and their students engage in certain activities outlined on the CSA website, we have a better chance of being selected. BLPS SC will try and apply again for the opportunity for next year.

Backyard – Phase 1 Trees

Phase 1 trees have been mulched.

Graduation

Graduation will happen in June. At this time, we do not know if it will be in-person or virtual. Ms. Linton and Ms. Pickthall are meeting with intermediate teachers about award selections, which will include our EVS learners. Graduation hoodies have been ordered. There are 67 students who will be graduating this year. Unfortunately, we are unable to proceed with grad photos which were scheduled for May 7th.

Lawn signs will not be used – this was decided by the Richmond Hill Administrators group. Ms. Linton, Ms. Pickthall and the Intermediate teachers are trying to come up with other creative ways to honor the students who will be graduating in June. This may include a small memento for graduating students, however this has not been done in previous years. It is an unprecedented time, and we cannot compare activities undertaken in a non-covid year with a covid year.

BLPS had booked Venetian Banquet Hall in Aurora for a graduation dinner; the event cannot take place under current Covid restrictions, but the banquet hall will not return the \$1200 deposit money. Instead, they are holding it until it can be used at a later time. Ms. Linton will approach the banquet hall to see if they can provide the school with a token dessert box, or some other treat, with the deposit funds.

BLPS School Council did buy the graduation cupcakes in years past and some parents may be willing to donate funds to support some sort of token/memento for the graduating students.

Intermediate teachers will reach out to parents and students to see what they want to do to celebrate graduation this year.

End-of-Year Reports

Samantha will finish the end of year reports for TDFEF & PROGrant

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

NEXT MEETING – Monday, June 7, 2021 @ 6:30 pm