

# MEETING MINUTES

## BK SCHOOL COUNCIL



### DATE:

Sept 14, 2023

### TIME:

6:30 PM

### FACILITATOR:

Andrea E (Chair)

### IN ATTENDANCE

Leisa Michael, Lisa Giacobbo, Shannon Dugan, Lorriane Pearce, Chelsea Pedwell, Melinda Wood, Andrea Eberheart, Lisa-Marie McGinn, Beth DeBruyne, Kristina Dover, Ameliza, Charlene Berard, Walter, Anna Santamaria, Kate, Greg Schell

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES

Adoption of today's agenda and prior meeting minutes (May, 2023) were approved.

### WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Opening Prayer was read by Leisa Michael and Lisa Giacobbo. Existing council members, Trustee Schell, our new school principal (Lisa Giacobbo) and vice principal (Leisa Michael), as well as new attendees were introduced.

### NEW BUSINESS

**EXECUTIVE POSITIONS:** There are three openings for School Council Executive Positions, including Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. One parent has indicated much interest in the Vice Chair position and will confirm his/her interest with the Chair, pending update on a personal health matter. Kristina D expressed interest in the Treasurer position; she was subsequently nominated, and the nomination was seconded. The Secretary position remains unfilled.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES:** Meeting dates for the remainder of the year were confirmed: Oct 19, Nov 23 (amended from Nov 16, due to Parent Teacher Interviews) Jan 18, Feb 15, March 21, Apr 18, May 16

**COMMITTEES:** The five council committees (Playground, Compassion, Garden, Book Club and Staff Appreciation) were briefly reviewed, and parents were invited to consider joining any group they were interested in. Interested parents have been asked to email the Chair prior to next meeting.

**INCENTIVES FOR NEW/INCREASED PARENT INVOLVEMENT in COUNCIL:** We discussed what incentives, encouragement and deterrents there might exist for parent involvement in school council. It was brought up that lack of childcare is a barrier, and we discussed the possibility and logistics of babysitters on site for future meetings. We discussed the benefit to some members of meeting over Zoom/virtually. Lisa G is going to look into the liability the school would need re: babysitters. An idea for providing refreshments at each meeting, with a sign-up sheet for them, was brought up and generally agreed upon. Finally, we discussed ways of spreading the word about school council, specifically what we do and what we provide. Some suggestions were made about council advertising, including reels/videos, social media (tik tok, Instagram, for ex) and emails. Leisa M mentioned that would be attending a course on social media for schools and would relay information she learns to us. It was brought up that we need to consider FOIP guidelines.

We discussed having concrete goals for council and a way to evaluate those goals. For example, we could have a concrete goal of having at least 1 parent rep from each grade. Another concrete goal is that council sets up a dedicated social media account.

**CLASSROOM PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:** We discussed a desire to have a parent representative from each class (ideally) be on school council, acting as a go-between between parents, teachers and council. There were no volunteers today.

**WELCOME BACK EVENT:** We revised the date (error) of Oct 21 to Sept 23. We are calling the welcome back event the Scoop and Screen Night, which offers a kid-friendly movie and ice-cream sundaes to students and families. We will start the event at 5:30 (staggered start), to allow for everyone to be there and ready for movie start at 6:30

Someone suggested that we need a dairy-free dessert option, and Andrea said she would get popsicles. Andrea or Beth will send Lisa G details so that we can add the event to the newsletter.

**HALLOWEEN DANCE:** The dance will be on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup>. Although we have had dances on Thurs evenings in the past, before PD day Fridays, this year's Thurs date (Thurs Oct 19) would mean both school admins away at a conference. So, we decided on Friday night of the next week. Andrea will not be in attendance, due to a prior commitment, and at least one admin will be there.

We asked for interested parents in planning the dance, and Charlene, Beth, Lisa-Marie and Anna all expressed interest.

**VOLUNTEER BURNOUT:** We discussed the past challenge of parent volunteer burnout. Charlene suggested two things – specific, assigned roles and lots of advance notice.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

Kristina (Garden Committee lead) reported that donations from families for flower boxes has worked out really well. She thanked donors and volunteer gardeners.

Chelsee (Playground Committee lead) expressed the need for more help with the Playground Committee, for both fundraising and planning/design. She reported that we need people who can approach businesses for donations, specifically. She reviewed that we need approximately 300,000 dollars for the playground. The committee is applying for grants and is expecting about 2/3 of the money to come from grants, hopefully

#### PRINCIPAL REPORT (Lisa Giacobbo)

- Lisa updated us on the **Nutrition Grant**, and how money is going toward fruit baskets in each class, every day. Not only is it healthy, it is free for students and it is a way of regulating behaviour/mood. Currently, there is no partnership with a grocery store (despite trying multiple times), and we are needing that. Walter mentioned that he has contacts with food distributors and said he will reach out to see options.
- Regarding **Acknowledgments for Students**, the active plan is to replace Caught Being Kind (as it was becoming inauthentic) with something else.
- There are changes to the **Parent Portal**. Report cards now are only going to be once per year (June). November and March will be the 2 interview times. Interviews will be Nov 15/16 and March 19/20. Parents can go into the Portal any time, however, to see student's ongoing progress.
- There was a **New-Student Lunch!** School admin welcomed new students to BK (who each got to bring a friend!) with for a pizza lunch outdoor picnic. It was a big hit with the kids.
- **Enrolment Update:** There are currently 221 students at BK. Prekinder = 26, Kinder = 19 AM/16 PM, Grade 1 = 46, Grade 2 = 20, Grade 2/3 = 20, Grade 3 = 21, Grade 4 = 27, Grade 5 = 26, Grade 6 = 26

#### SCHOOL BOARD REPORT (Greg Schell)

GSACRD Trustee Vice Chair Greg Schell reported on school growth throughout the district, including at VJM, BK and SACHS. He updated us on the success of Ecole Sacre Coeur startup and the renovations at Board Office.

The Outreach School is moving to the back of Holy Family School.

#### TEACHER UPDATES (Shannon Dugan)

Grade 1 teacher Shannon Dugan expressed that it has been a great start to the school year! Grade 1 students, for example, are working on a lot of hands-on learning (ex. Math, science experiments!), and they are loving it.

Guest speaker Val Merchant came to the school to talk about the work of the St. Vincent Du Paul Society.

#### CLOSING REMARKS (Andrea E)

Next meeting is set for October 19, 2023 | 6:30 pm at BK School, multipurpose room

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm