

Briargreen Public School Council

Meeting minutes

October 10, 2017

Present: Elissa Burrows (teacher rep), Helena Manera, Monica Hucal, Sharon Creasey, Leslie McLeod (Principal), Andrea Horton, Leslie Bader, Kenny Wang

1. **Call to order:** Current Council Chair Sharon called the meeting to order
2. **Welcome comments:** Everyone introduced themselves.
3. **Agenda:** Approved by Monica, seconded by Helena
4. **September meeting minutes:** Approved by Sharon, seconded by Helena
5. **Open Council positions available:** Leslie Bader was elected to be Council Chair. We are looking for a Valentine’s Dance coordinator, and an OCASC co-member. Please contact us if you have questions or are interested.

6. School reports

Principal’s report

- Spending of Council money: We have more classes now, so costs for Scientists in the school and similar have increased. Last year, the library budget was reduced to \$1500 so we could help more students in need. Teachers would like to spend a bit more on technology for the learning commons- staff would like 5 Chromebooks and iPads in each corner. We are approximately 5 Chromebooks short for the school, and we don’t have any iPads other than the ones in the classrooms. We have already done drama for the juniors this year at a cost of \$1800. We are looking at arts and/or MASC presentations. We received some budget for the amalgamation with Leslie Park for cultural events. The closing balance from last year’s Council funds was a bit more than \$10,000. There is a bit over \$2,000 remaining from the Leslie Park council which should be coming to us as well.

- Estimated allocation of 2016-2017 council funds (to be confirmed later)

Item	Amount
Arts (MASC presentations, etc.)	\$2,000
Arts workshops (Luv2Groove dance, drama for juniors	\$2,500
Visual arts materials, musical instruments and inquiry-based learning materials	\$1,000
Science workshops \$200 x 12 classes x 2 workshops	\$4,800
Library	\$1,500
Tech maintenance	\$500
Students in need	\$800
Total	\$12,200
Set aside for outdoor habitat area	\$3,000

- The school pays for milk and the Council pays the school back. The school receives a GST rebate for this, which saves money. There was a question about whether the school could also pay for pizza. We will look into whether Pizza Pizza is an official Board tender.
- All schools have to do three fire drills every semester. We have done two already, and will do another one in the next few weeks, which will be a surprise. We also have to do two lockdown practices per year, and will do one in the next few weeks. There are locks on the classroom doors now.
- Staff and parents need to watch for strangers on the schoolyard. You are requested to let the office know if you see anyone suspicious. Leslie will remind parents that there is no supervision on the yard before 9:00, so they can't drop off their children before that time unsupervised.
- Health and safety: The school board hired an environmental company to do radon testing in schools. Briargreen was tested last year, and levels were found to be within the acceptable range, so there were no issues.
- Renovation update: The library will not be done by the end of this week because the fire retardant in the new area is taking longer to dry than expected, which has slowed down the duct work and drywall. It will probably be another two weeks or so. There has also been a delay with the new pop-up windows in the library. The end of November is still the expected date for the rest of the renovations to be completed. The classrooms will probably move into the new area over the holidays. Dividing walls have been installed in the classrooms, locks are now on classroom doors, blinds should be installed in the next month, coat hooks will start to be installed this weekend and should be done next week. We will have heat by October 15. Everything will be fixed up, including paint chipping, at the end of the renovation work.
- EQAO: We don't have Leslie Park data yet. Individual marks were sent home. There are exceptions for English Language Learners (ELLs) and children who are performing two years behind grade level (there were 4 in total for the Grade 3s and 6s). Some students were absent for the tests due to concerns about asbestos in the spring. The Grade 3 scores don't really represent the whole picture because of the students who didn't participate. Individually, students performed at the same level as they have in past years. Grade 3s typically scored in the 70th percentile for reading and writing, and in the high 60s/low 70s in math. This is aligned with provincial results. The Grade 6 math scores dropped significantly from the previous year, which was also the case across the Board and the province. 30-40% of junior students at Briargreen are on modified or accommodated learning. Across the Board, there was a decline in all three areas. Results for ELLs are mixed. The Board is looking at math and supporting the needs of ELLs through professional development for staff. This includes expanding the team of math leads in the Board including special education, primary and junior math leads. Briargreen is looking at instructional strategies for operational skills and problem solving and moving to balanced math week, which means spending days on operational skills and problem solving in different sized groups, and a mixture of practice, games, and deeper, richer math classes. Staff looked at this during the PD day last Friday. We looked at brain growth: there is more activity when people are struggling with answers than when they're getting things right, so it is important to struggle and be challenged. We're trying to become more communal for math and take the emphasis away from speed.

We want to emphasize that everyone can be a “math person” and teach math that is meaningful and relevant in all areas of the curriculum. We can look at which EQAO questions students got wrong to see which areas are weaker. Last year, comparisons and algebra were the weakest areas. Teachers are watching each other using new strategies. We have a volunteer working with some Grade 5 and 6 students who are strong in math to help challenge them.

School happenings, Elissa Burrows

- Thank you from the staff for inviting and providing dinner for them at the BBQ.
- Next week, there will be cross country and soccer meets.
- The kindergarten teachers are exploring colour and numbers, and gearing up for Halloween.
- The primary classes celebrated Thanksgiving together: each class presented a song and poem, and made apple crisp, which was lots of fun. They will be gearing up for some sort of primary division activity for Halloween.
- Mrs. Tea’s class organized the Terry Fox Run. The kids did a good job of speaking and opening the event. They also planted tulips for the international friendship garden with consulates from other countries, visited MosaiCanada gardens and met the mayor.
- Upcoming events: There will be the Halloween parade for parents to watch around 9:30/9:40 on the 31st. The gym is not fully available so the Remembrance Day ceremony for Grades 1-6 will be outdoors. Students should dress appropriately. It will be on the Thursday, with Friday as the rain date. The kinders will be doing a separate ceremony. Meet the teacher night will be next Tuesday from 5:30-6:30.
- The new breakfast program has been a big success. We have veggies, fruit and cereal. We are getting money from Loblaws and the Education Foundation for the program, but we will need more budget. We are turning away students in EDP because they get snacks from a separate budget.

7. Council reports

Treasurer’s report, Monica

- We have carryover from the previous year, between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Leslie will share the account of what was spent last year later. 25 students for milk and 44 slices of pizza were subsidized for students in need. We will vote later on how to spend the Council funds. The Council’s bank balance as of August 31st will be given to the school for activities this year (over \$10,000). Treasurer’s report is attached on the next page.

Fundraising report, Sharon (in Amy’s absence)

- For the milk, pizza, and Subway programs, we are working out problems with the systems, but they are generally running well.
- Popcorn will start in early November, run by the Grade 5s.
- People expressed an interest in selling frozen berries again this year, and it was suggested to do this in January.

- The bake sale will be in December. We could have it in the temporary library or one of the common areas.
- There was a suggestion to do a cake walk. This could be done at the Valentine's Day dance or one of the movie nights.
- We could do a fundraiser with the Samko and Miko toy sale in November. If people say they are with Briargreen, they get their receipts stamped, we collect and submit the receipts and we get 10% back. This is also valid on the online store. We can put a flyer on the Council website.
- Purdy's chocolates has 2 fundraising programs: one year round, and one for the holiday season. The Council would need to sell \$800 and we would get 25% of that back. Monica will find out more info and we can vote by email.
- We will send QSP catalogues and forms home soon. This is also an ongoing fundraiser- people can look up the school online.

8. **Feedback on the BBQ, Andrea:** Thanks to everyone who volunteered on the day of the BBQ. Thanks to Leslie Bader for providing the popsicles which were very popular. For future, we should make sure to have bring popsicles and/or freezies to sell. There was a good selection of food from the food truck, and volunteers at the food truck and teachers had their food provided for them. The bouncy castle is a good idea for next time – we have to make sure to make arrangements for it in time.

9. **OCASC report, Donna** (via Sharon)

- Accommodation Reviews are on hold as directed by the province.
- OCASC (<http://ocasc.ca/>) has a webpage and Facebook group. Looking for what information school councils would like to see in these places.
- Parent Conference & School Council Training Day: November 18, 2017 (9am - 1:30pm) at Sir Robert Borden High School. Keynote speaker is Dr. Karyn Gordon. Agenda will be released in October. Everyone is welcome, free, sign up in advance.
- OCASC has 2 representatives on the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC, a Board committee). One spot is available if anyone is interested. Each school can have up to 2 OCASC representatives.
- Committee of the Whole update:
 - The Board has 72,000 students, 146 schools. Looking for PIC members.
 - Ottawa School Transportation Authority (OSTA) bell time policies: OSTA can make bell time change for less than 10 minutes; over 10 minutes has to go to the Board. Policies are not complete for new schools, and school changes due to merging schools (e.g. due to school closures). Wanting to make policy changes in these areas. Want to make sure parents are consulted. Mode of transportation (school bus / OC Transpo) is delegated to OSTA (Board doesn't decide). There was talk about empty seats.
 - Osgoode Boundary Review: Caster Valley - 163% capacity and on a septic system. Upcoming public consultations. Recommendations in January.

- Chalk it Up
 - Cafeteria Food Quality: Lack of healthy choices (hamburgers, hot dogs, fries). Issues for grade 7 and 8s going to new 7-12 schools (e.g. SRB). Questions about peanut free policy at high schools - does it apply?
- PIC Update:
 - School councils should hear EQAO results in the next 2 meetings. Principals are supposed to be engaging with school councils on this and relationship to school learning plan.
 - Dialogue about learning plans to improve math scores. Parents are supposed to be engaged on this.
 - Board has a new website. Soft launch. New functionality is still being added.
 - There is a spot available on the Parent Involvement Committee, which Leslie Bader is interested in.

10. **November movie night:** Movie nights will be Friday, November 17th, January 19th, and one more later in the year. We are looking for volunteers for November. We will come up with a list of possible movies and vote by email for the top three. Then the students will vote on which one to watch.

11. **PRO night:** This was moved from October to February 20th with the 27th as a snow date. We received the grant from the Ministry for this event. We will have Scientists in the School do workshops for families. They bring everything and set up. The cost is \$1,250 and the grant covers \$1,000 of that. The remaining \$250 will come from our budget. This year, the PRO grants focused on math; next year they will focus on student wellness.

12. **New business:**

- It was agreed that we shouldn't use money raised by the Council for materials for EDP – it should be used for the whole school population.
- Cashless food orders: At the moment, about half are paid by cash and the other half by e-transfer. We will leave the system as is for now.
- Chair for next meeting: Leslie Bader has volunteered to do this.

13. **Adjournment.** The next meeting is November 8th. Sharon adjourned the meeting.

Assets	Amount	Effective Date
Bank Balance	\$28,838.42	10-Oct-17
Pending Deposits	\$198.00	11-Oct-17
Leslie Park School Parent Council	\$2,146.26	11-Oct-17
Projected Current Balance	\$31,182.68	11-Oct-17

Expenses	Amount	Effective Date	Frequency	Duration
Milk	6,300 est.	11 Oct 17		15
Pizza	\$4,046.85	11-Oct-17	269.79/Thursday	15 days
Subway	\$2,957.50	11-Oct-17	227.50/Friday	13 days
Total Expenses	\$10,346.85			
Balance Available	\$20,835.83			

\$420/wk.