

Briargreen Public School Council Meeting
April 11, 2018

Present: Sharon Edgar Creasey (chair), Elissa Burrows (teacher rep), Leslie McLeod (principal), Amy Henry, Stacey Elliott, Andrea Horton, Leslie Bader

1. Sharon called the meeting to order
2. **Agenda:** Approved by Elissa, seconded by Amy
3. **Minutes:** Approved by Amy, seconded by Sharon
4. **School report,** Elissa

There are Spirit days coming up: wacky weather and backwards day.

Some new clubs have begun: French club for Grade 2s and 3s, Kindness club

Basketball is underway for the juniors.

The Eco club will lead an upcoming litter cleanup of the school yard.

Grade 3s are going on a field trip to MacSkimming Pioneer Village; Grade 5s are going to the Tulip Festival. Grade 1s and juniors will see Peter Pan at Centrepointe Theatre.

Several classes have Scientists in the Schools planned.

Education week

Monday May 7 is Music Monday, during which most students will be participating in the song. Tuesday will be a school-wide "pat on the back day": All students will have another student's name and will write 3 compliments about that student. Wednesday May 9 will be the Briargreen's Got Talent assembly, which parents can attend. Auditions were held during music classes this week. 2 acts will be chosen from each class to perform. Thursday May 10 will be an open house and multicultural pot luck dinner from 5:30-7:00. This is an event that the Leslie Park school enjoyed that will be held at Briargreen for the first time this year. Families are asked to bring a meal item. School Council will buy slab cakes and sell drinks. There will be tables in the gym for eating between 6 and 7. Students will have artwork displayed in the gym. The commons areas will have displays of what has been done this year for the school learning plan, including math samples, photos etc. More information about this evening will be coming soon. Book World on Thursday. Friday May 11 will be Fitness Friday. There will be a school wide morning walk. It will also be Flower Power spirit day. A lot of the classes will be going to the ballet that day.

School Learning Plan

Phase 2 of the learning plan has had a focus on problem solving, to apply the concepts that have been taught and communicate understanding of the concepts. In Phase 1, of the two students per class who were closely monitored, 70% made progress. There are large whiteboards in the learning

commons areas for classes to use for vertical spaces. There are also have small whiteboards from last year that will be put up. This creates a culture of kids talking to each other about problems.

5. **Principal's report**, Leslie

Construction update: Leslie will be doing a walk through with the design liaison person from the Board next week. They will let us know what will need to be moved for the next stage of construction. This will take place during the summer. It includes new carpet and painting in the office, putting in a mini kitchen with 2 sinks and counter near the gym that will be used for the breakfast program (37-45 kids per day) and EDP. Construction will start the week after school ends (exact date tbc) and is supposed to be done when school starts in September. It will not have a major impact on school life if its' not completed by the start of school. The work will be done by a different company than last year.

We have \$24,000 from Leslie Park for a habitat area and outdoor classroom. We also have an extra \$25,000 that's been allocated, plus \$4,000 from our own Council resources. So there is approximately \$53,000 to spend, which will cover what we're planning. This will likely happen in summer 2019. It will include a fixed seating area, storage shed for science exploration materials with a whiteboard on the side. The whole area will be wheelchair accessible, with a paved pathway and rubber or wood chipping. We could add climbing structures or something similar, or wait and see what we want to add. Leslie will meet with the designer in a few weeks to make a plan, which should be ready for next meeting. We could either move the existing garden boxes or put the new habitat area somewhere else. We will ask parents for input in our next newsletter.

The logo and mascot contest was really successful. The new colours will be green, red and black. The graphic designer at the Board will be working on it, which should be done by the end of May. The Grade 6s would like to have the new logo on their Grade 6 t-shirts.

School cash online was used for the first time recently for a field trip. There was 50% participation, which is average and will increase over time. We will be using it more and more as time goes on.

The projected enrollment number for next year are showing a drop of 40 students, mostly because there have not been many JK registrations. At the moment, we will be down one kindergarten class, lose 2 ECEs and lose 1 class total for grades 1-6. Overall, we will likely lose 3 teachers and 2 ECEs. The Board looks at numbers in the spring, sometimes in late August, and in October, when reorganizations sometime happen.

6. **Treasurer's report**, Sharon -Total profits should be similar to last year -usually about \$12K for the year. [Ledger](#) and [Budget](#) can be found on the bgpscouncil website.

7. **Fundraising report**, Amy

Movie night coming up next Friday -votes should be in tomorrow.

Popcorn sales are down compared to last year. We may revisit the strategy for next year. There will be a special reward day for the grade 5 students who have helped with popcorn this year.

We decided not to sell frozen berries this year.

Book world will be Thursday May 10. It will take place during the day and during the open house for families at night. Remaining books will be sold off on the Friday morning. As in previous years, there will be a poster contest, a book collection contest, and trivia contests. We will start collecting books in the next week or two.

8. **Feedback from recent events:** We received very good feedback from PRO night. The volunteers were great. The Valentine's Dance went well. We need a coordinator for next year. The DJ has already been booked.
9. For the upcoming movie night, we will ask some students to volunteer. Sharon will make a list of teenagers who can be asked to volunteer for future events.
10. **PRO for next year:** The application is due by the end of May. Options: Tackling Anxiety through art (Stacey's recommendation), Scientists in the School night again, Indoor gym for fitness challenges, drama, mindfulness yoga, Andrea can find out about the mobile observatory. Sharon will send email to solicit ideas.
11. **OCASC, Sharon for Donna Owen**

See detailed notes on next page. Recognition awards for students. Could invite trustee to school council meeting after the election. Proposing only 2 high schools offering gifted programs (Lisgar and Bell), from 4 now. School council banking through schools proposal to reduce theft of money. OCASC protested this at the Board meeting. The Board referred it back to staff and audit committee. OCASC has an active Facebook page that anyone can follow.
12. **School Council positions for next year:** Helena (milk), Sarah (pizza), Subway is open, Treasurer should be covered by Monica, QSP is open. (Note: Secretary, newsletter editor, and social media coordinator are now also open.)
13. **Council Annual General Meeting** will take place in September. This is mandated by the Board.
14. **Next meeting:** June 6

OCASC and SEAC reports, Donna Owen

School Council Banking

- Staff presented a report on School Council Banking at the March 20th Committee of the Whole / March 27th Board Meeting.
- [Report 18-032, Approval of a Consultation Plan on Recommended Changes to P.133.FIN, Management of School Council Funds](#)
- The report presented a staff recommendation to force school councils to bank with the school. School councils would no longer be able to maintain a bank account with a financial institution. The report contained a consultation plan on implementation of the recommendation. The consultation plan did not include consultation on other options for school council banking.
- OCASC has discussed school council banking at 3 meeting this school year and several concerns have been raised. The concerns were not addressed in the staff report:
 - Additional work for office staff. There is less office staff now than 2013 (the last time school council banking was discussed).
 - Some schools that switched to banking with the school, have been asked by principals to take banking back due to the additional workload on office staff.
 - How will money be handled for events after school hours? Will school staff be around to handle the money?
 - Will councils be forced to use Board's tendered list or acquisition cards?
 - Concern about money that councils have already raised for projects (e.g. play structures).
 - Office staff change - how will the transitions be handled?
 - Some councils have good relationships with principals. Some don't. Things change when principals/school councils change.
 - Existing rules are not being enforced.
 - Will school councils be charged a service fee for banking for the school?
- Many parents delegated at the Committee of the Whole and Board Meetings (including me!). All were opposed to the staff recommendation and had various issues with the consultation plan.
- At the Board Meeting on March 27th, the board did not approve the consultation plan and referred the motion back to staff and the Audit Committee for further consideration of the issue in the Fall 2018/Winter 2019.
- So this issue will be discussed again. Our school council should have a discussion on this issue, and gather our questions and concerns.

Committee on the Arts

- Request to have an Arts rep on each school council. A person who will advocate and promote the arts in the school.
- Arts Recognition Awards

- Awards Goals: Promote the arts and reward dedication, Build a grassroots base to help with advocacy for the arts in education, Increase the use of the arts in public school education
- Request that each school nominate at least one person.
- Nomination deadline: Sunday May 5, 2018
- Nomination form: <https://goo.gl/forms/vEapsG5aHI6dUtkf1>

OCASC wants to hear about any issues with Trustees harassing school council members.

School Councils can invite Trustees to school council meetings. Trustees can't attend without an invitation. This fall there will be an election for School Board Trustees. After that I think it would be a good idea for the Briargreen School Council to start to build a relationship with our school board Trustee by inviting them to a school council meeting or school council event.

SEAC Update

1) **Individual Education Plan (IEP)** forms are now accessible to teachers in an online platform. This is an internal system, though eventually teachers will be able to send a child's IEP by PDF to parents. This new platform will hopefully bring consistency, clarity, and ease of access of IEPs to teachers and principals. The new software will be used starting for Term 2 IEPs.

2) Section 23 Programs

- Section 23 programs and services are therapeutic, educational programs provided to students in care and/or treatment, custody, and correctional facilities.
- Some of the programs are available for direct referral from the OCDSB (i.e., day treatment). The other programs require either a direct referral from a hospital or a court order.
- OCSDB and OCSB have a partnership to provide the programs through the M.F. McHugh Education Centre. Programs are funded by the Ministry of Education.
- Programs are run with community agencies like The Royal Mental Health Centre (ROMHC). CHEO, Crossroads, Roberts/Smart Centre, and the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa (CAS).

3) Tiered Interventions

- Memo in response to a motion from Trustees and SEAC.
- It is an evidence-based approach which increases the intensity of instructional supports in response to an individual student's rate and level of learning. The tiers refer to the degree of the intervention.
- The tiered approach is part of an overall system to support all students, from those who may be at risk to those in need of greater challenges.

- 3 Tiers
 - Tier 1 supports are provided in the regular classroom. Examples - Small group guided instruction, differentiated instruction, Universal Design for Learning. Same approach used for all students.
 - Tier 2 Examples - targeted support from an LRT, enrichment tasks, assistive technology, consultation with in school teams and/or multi-D team. Supports/intervention are different from other students in the class.
 - Tier 3 - Specialized programs, Empower Reading program
- In my opinion the memo is not sufficient for parents to understand Tiered Intervention.

4) Academic Staffing

- Not planning on reducing EAs.

5) Gifted Advisory Group

- Continuing to meet. Some disagreement. Feeling that they all need to be onboard together. Committed to working together. Nothing concrete yet.

6) Department Update

- Autism - Tuesday April 3 is Autism Awareness Day. Many events planned. Each school will receive Autism awareness kit.

7) Secondary School Gifted Geographic Model Transition

- Staff has produced a report recommending the Secondary Gifted program be consolidated at Bell HS and Lisgar. Small programs are currently offered at Merivale and Glebe - these would be phased out.
- There is an alternate proposal to phase the gifted program out of Lisgar and into a school in the Hunt Club/Alta Vista area.
- Designated schools for the secondary gifted program would change.