

Briargreen Public School Council Meeting
February 7, 2018

Present: Leslie McLeod (principal), Elissa Burrows (teacher rep), Shsron Edgar Creasey (Chair), Donna Owen, Andrea Horton, Leslie Bader, Kelly Baig

1. **Call to order:** Sharon called the meeting to order
2. **Agenda :** Approved by Sharon, seconded by Andrea
3. **January 2018 meeting minutes:** approved with changes by Donna, seconded by Sharon. The changes are as follows:
 - a. Outstanding: Leslie to send email to parents about school learning plan including math activities to do at home
 - b. Cameras at school are only on the doors
 - c. Teachers will approach unknown individuals to talk to them
 - d. Methods of payment for School Cash Online are: E-transfer, adding money to an online account, or credit card
4. **Follow up from January meeting**
 - a. Leslie confirmed that, with the introduction of School Cash Online, all methods of payment will have an extra 3% added on, including cash and cheques. (Note that Knoxdale is communicating a different message.)
 - b. Price of chocolate milk: A vote to increase the price of chocolate milk for Term 2 was conducted by email. There was unanimous support for increasing the price of chocolate milk, so it would have the same profit margin as white milk.
 - c. An email was sent around to Council members for advice on security issues. The consensus was that parents should be informed when there is a security issue on school property.
5. **School reports**

School happenings, Elissa

All grades have had dance instruction with Love 2 Groove, which has been well received by the students.

Skating is happening up to three times a week, depending on volunteer availability.

Kindergarten classes are preparing for lunar new year celebrations, including instruments, costumes, a parade on Thursday February 15th and a discussion of all lunar new years.

Triple ball is happening for girls and boys in the junior grades.

Juniors have community gym class on Fridays, when they discuss different topics together.

The third and final grade 3 class is now participating in the Swim to Survive program.

There will be a Crazy hair day on Friday February 16th.

Twoonie Tuesday will be on February 27th. The Grade 6s will organize an Olympic themed winter activity for the school. School Council will provide hot chocolate for the event.

School Learning Plan (SLP) update:

Different grades will be discussed each month. Right now, the Grades 3 to 5 are working on multiplication. Teachers do a pre-assessment to check students' understanding and ability to communicate and apply knowledge. This gives teachers a sense of where they're starting from. Some students know the math facts but don't know how to apply them or how to communicate them. Teachers move forward depending on what individual students need. There is a lot of hands-on exploration in all classes using tools such as manipulatives -number strings, cube trains, math games; cards, dice, other activities, area models, etc. Students practice skills in fun, interesting ways. There is also fact practice and paired problem solving such as multiplication using area. Students do independent work using math journals, which gives teachers an idea of how they're doing individually. There is modelling, and assessment for learning including quick checks to see if students are understanding the concepts. Teachers are taking notes along the way. Teachers conference with the student to do some more assessment.

Principal's report, Leslie

This is the second week of the library being open. Thanks to the parent volunteers who have helped set it up. It is still a work in progress -there are still lots of boxes to go through. We have gotten a lot of great books from the Leslie Park library. A lot of new libraries are half books, half "maker space" which is a space dedicated to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and arts to provide students with hands-on activities to explore and build things. We are looking at options for creating this kind of space in the library. Shelves will be built into some of the walls, which will free up some floor space. We are looking at some alternative seating including seating nooks and reading nooks. We hope to have the built-in shelves done before the summer. We might be able to get some funding for this, or we could fundraise for it.

There is an Occasional Teacher shortage in the Board so schools are having to be creative. Sometimes classroom teachers have to cover for French classes, which means they lose prep time, which they need to be able to make up later. A lot of occasional teachers are working for 3 boards. Some schools have a designated occasional teacher. Briargreen doesn't have enough teacher absences to justify this, but we might be able to get a part-time designated occasional teacher. It is difficult to get teachers to fill those positions.

Custodial staff have done extra cleaning because of high flu prevalence in the school. Teachers are reviewing handwashing with classes and there are posters up about this.

The logo and mascot contest is into the next phase. There are 3 bulletin boards full of applications. A group of parents and staff will be the judges to narrow these down. They will be looking at ideas and thoughts, not artistic merit because Board staff will turn the ideas into an image. There will be a rubric for assessing the applications. The judges will come up with top 5. These will be sent out for families to vote on. The choice should be made by the end of the school year.

Report cards will be sent home on February 14.

Twoonie Tuesday will be February 27th. The goal is to have every school in the board do something special that day, like a spirit day or winter day.

Leslie sent out an email about buses, parking, and drop off guidelines. She will send out a monthly gentle reminder. We urge people not to use the parking lot and encourage more people to park on Carlaw where there is a ploughed path to the school.

Where the fridges are, a counter workspace will be put in for EDP and the breakfast program so they don't have to use the staff kitchen.

6. OCASC report, Donna

There will be an International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Merivale High School starting in 2019.

Immunization letters will be sent home from Ottawa public health soon.

The school board is looking at capital priority setting, at the needs for the next 10 years. The process identifies areas of growth and need. The information is available online and schools have a copy. Money for capital projects comes from the Ministry; the Board can't fund them. The Board has a consultation plan for the list. They are projecting student numbers to go down for Briargreen over the next few years.

Accommodation review moratorium: In the future, there may be a requirement to include options in these rather than just one recommended option. The Ministry is to come out with new guidelines for this, following which there will be a new schedule.

There is a plan to keep or dispose of surplus school sites. Leslie Park and Grant are to be disposed of; Greenbank is not. There is a process to dispose of them: they have to be posted to public institutions for 6 months, then they can be sold on the open market. The money from sales goes to the maintenance and renewal budget. See details here:

<http://ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=55498&contextId.9325=57139&parentId.9325=57140&returnTo=57140&objectId.9325=1620775¤tDate=2018-01-16&view=dailylist>

The Advisory Committee on the Arts would like every school to make nominations for the awards, which include music, theatres, visual arts, etc. Briargreen usually nominates students every year.

7. Council reports

Treasurer's report, Sharon

Term one is over, term two is starting. Most expenses happen in the 2nd term. The pizza program is the most successful fundraiser. See [Ledger](#) and [Budget](#) on the Council website.

Fundraising report. Sharon for Amy

Milk, pizza, and Subway forms are coming in and being processed. Popcorn is still running. Mrs. Tea and Mrs. Feighen are running it while Amy is away. It will not run on Twonie Tuesday. We received the remaining Council funds from Leslie Park. Frozen berries will be sold in March.

The **Valentine's Dance** will take place this Friday. We have a lot of prizes. We will be setting up in the gym around 2:15-2:45 and then start decorating around 2:45. There will be a photo booth and they will email us the photos after the dance.

Science night will be next Tuesday. We have enough volunteers now. Leslie Bader can be the point person during the night since Sharon can't be there the whole time.

Movie night: We hope to have 3 movie nights next school year, but it wasn't possible this year due to the renovations. The first one will be March 2nd. Sharon will organize the votes for the kids to choose the movie.

The School Council will provide hot chocolate for the Winter fun day on February 27th. We will ask for a few volunteers to serve it.

8. New ideas

We could consider having a Fun fair in June, with activities like a tug of war. We will put this on the agenda for April.

The Inuit Centre can come in and do activities in classes. We could consider this in the future.

9. Next Council meeting: We don't usually have a meeting in March, so the next meeting is April 11th.

10. Sharon adjourned the meeting.