

Briargreen Public School Council Meeting
November 8, 2017

Present:

Donna Owen, Leslie Bader (Chair), Stacey Elliot, Elissa Burrows (Teacher rep), Amy Henry, Andrea Horton, Monica Hucal, Leslie McLeod (Principal), Suzann Taylor, Helena Manera, Sarah McLaughlin, Sharon Creasey, Kelly Bagg

1. **Call to order:** Leslie Bader called the meeting to order.
2. **Agenda:** Approved by Andrea, seconded by Monica
3. **October 2017 minutes:** Approved by Amy, seconded by Helena
4. **School reports**

Principal's report

Leslie showed a presentation/demo of the new School Cash Online system. This is a system for parents to make online payments to the school for school events and fundraisers e.g. school trips, voluntary fees. It should be in place at Briargreen by the end of December. The office staff is currently being trained on it. It will reduce the amount of cash and cheques being sent to school, which is easier for parents and also means less administration of money by teachers and office staff. Parents will have to register. There will still be options for parents to pay by cash if needed/wanted. The system could eventually be for school council too but will just be used for the school for now.

The School Board has a budget surplus this year, which will go to repaying past budget deficits. The Board is also putting in place a technology plan for the next 3 years. There is currently a huge variance in how many devices are available in various schools across the board. The goal is to have one device for every 4 students by the end of 2019. This calculation should not include devices purchased by school councils or special education equipment. The Board will also be purchasing more equipment for staff. There is an outstanding question about whether ECEs will be included in this.

The school had its first lockdown practice last Thursday and the police constable liaison was present. It went well. There will be a second one in the new year. Lockdown practices are always announced to the students in advance so as not to alarm them.

The empty seat processes for school buses are complete. OSTA only contacted parents of students who got an empty seat, not those who didn't. Leslie will contact OSTA about contacting the other parents to let them know the result. Not a lot of empty seats were available; the buses are pretty packed now. There have been some behavior problems because the buses are so full and a lot of the kids on the buses are younger. We are working on teaching bus behavior to younger kids in particular.

The School Learning Plan is a plan that each school develops for teacher professional growth, with the goal of impacting on student learning. Leslie will be submitting the one for Briargreen on Friday;

the details are still being finalized. All schools in the Board are focusing on math again, like last year. We are looking mainly at operational strength and fluency: basic facts, depending on what teachers think their class needs. Problem solving is one of our challenge areas, specifically choosing appropriate strategies for solving a problem. Briargreen is doing a differentiated plan, meaning that different teachers will be focusing on different areas. There will be study and learning groups amongst teachers to work on particular topics. The plan will be shared on the school website when it's ready. Teachers will show some of the results of the learning plan during education week in May. Donna and Leslie M. will ask OCASC and the Board, respectively, what role parents should have in the development of the learning plan.

Construction update: The target date is still the end of November for everything to be done, but we expect it to be at least 2 weeks longer, so we are expecting new classrooms and library to open in January. The extra fences outside should be removed soon. Plans for the final phase of construction are not known at the moment. It is supposed to take place next summer. It is supposed to be a smaller job than the work currently going on. Council can write a letter to the Board to ask for an update about this.

We received the materials from the Leslie Park library. Briargreen library technicians will go through the books and choose some to add to our library. Remaining books will be offered to teachers for their classrooms. After that, they will go to schools in need.

Staff will be asking students and teachers about how to set up the new library. We want to make it a more flexible learning space.

Coat hooks and blinds have been installed outside/in the finished classrooms. Next will be overhead projectors, which will be wall mounted and hooked up to teachers' computers.

Progress reports will be going home on Thursday, including invitations to some parents for interviews on Thursday November 23rd in the evening or Friday November 24th in the morning.

School happenings, Elissa Burrows

The Kindergartens are doing apple inquiries. For Remembrance Day, each kinder class is making poppies, working on a poem, and will watch an age appropriate video. Classes are spending more time outside in the mornings, so parents should make sure the children are dressed well. The kids have adapted well to the construction and enjoy chatting with the workers when they are outside.

The school Remembrance Day ceremony will take place on Friday at 10:00. We are planning an outdoor ceremony because the current indoor spaces are too small. We will evaluate the weather on Friday. If it happens inside, it will need to be a standing ceremony. The Grade 6 class will be doing presentation and Ms. K's class will be doing music. Kids can wear their Brownie/Scout uniforms, etc. First Nations students can wear traditional clothing.

The French team has children in grades 1-6 working on plays. The older students have access to an online version of the plays. Younger students are working with puppets. They are not working on presenting the plays, just practicing vocabulary and speaking.

Katrina Reed is back from maternity leave and is teaching the grade 4/5 class. The Grade 3/4 class is working on planting seeds, food chains, and posters. Grade 3s are working on soil. Borden ball starts soon for grades 4-6.

The Eco club has started for grades 3-6 and is working on posters for what goes in various garbage and recycling boxes.

Most primary classes are working on bucket rewards.

5. **Principal profile:** Sharon had sent the draft to Council members by email; a few people agreed with the draft. We need to submit it soon. It is supposed to be used by the superintendent when hiring principals for schools; it states what we as parents are looking for in a principal. Donna motioned for the profile to be accepted, seconded by Helena, all in favour. Sharon will submit it to the Board.

6. Council reports

Treasurer's report, Monica

As of October 4th, there was \$28K in the account, however we still have many expenses to make this term, particularly for food programs. A large portion of the expenses were milk payments. Most of the new income was from grants for PRO and the BBQ. The funds from Leslie Park School Council have not been received yet. (The financial statement will be added.)

Leslie will send the proposed budget for spending of council funds, which will be shared with Council members by email and to vote on whether we approve.

(Update, this was shared with Council members by email)

Arts (MASC presentations etc)	\$ 0
Arts Workshops (Luv2Groove dance, drama juniors)	\$ 2,500
Visual Arts materials	\$ 400
Inquiry Based Learning Materials-Kindergarten	\$ 600
Science workshops \$200 X 15 classes x 2 workshops	\$ 6,000
Library	\$ 1,500
Tech-wireless keyboards & mice for wall mounted projectors \$45.00 X 15	\$ 700
Tech purchases \$230 X 4 iPad mini	\$ 920
Total	\$12 620

Monies left from last year to cover the \$1300 difference in budget versus allocated monies (to include cost indicated below.)

Students in need \$ 800

We will also discuss the possibility of donating funds to another school by email.

We're losing money on milk this year, about \$3/day, mostly because of subsidies. It is proposed to increase the price of chocolate milk from 70 to 77 cents a carton. Chocolate milk is taxed, whereas white milk is not. We could consider subsidizing white milk but not chocolate, however, that isn't fair to the students who are being subsidized as it could make them stand out and gives them less

(no) choice. We're receiving money from the Education Foundation for milk and pizza subsidies this year. We will vote on price options at the next meeting. At the end of this school year, we could discuss whether the milk program will continue next year, given the lack of money we are making and the amount of work required by volunteers to run the program.

Fundraising report, Amy (delivered by Stacey)

Frozen berries will be ordered soon to be delivered in early December. (Update: This will happen in January instead.)

Movie night: The November date has been postponed because the gym was not available, so it will be in January instead. The date will be confirmed later, but probably Friday the 19th.

Bake sale: Could be held in a common area or the gym since the stage isn't available. To take place Tuesday December 12th (to be confirmed). Sarah can set up an online volunteer registration site. Stacey volunteered herself and Amy to organize the sale.

Samko and Miko toy sale fundraiser: The toy sale started today. Briargreen receives 10% of all sales pre-tax. Andrea will advertise on Facebook and Twitter, Leslie to advertise on School Connex. We could send a reminder flyer. We will also remind people at the end of next week to submit their receipts because they have to be submitted soon to the company.

The Scholastic book fair will be taking place on November 22nd and 23rd. It is being organized by our librarian Joanne and she will be looking for volunteers.

Suzanne volunteered to look into doing a fundraising night at Chapters and at some restaurants.

Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) report, Donna

The Board's Parent Conference will take place November 18th. There will be a keynote speaker and workshops. You can come and go – you don't have to stay for the whole event. Leslie B. has registered for the workshop on School Cash Online.

OCASC has a seat on the Board's Parent Involvement Committee that is vacant. Let Leslie or Donna know if you're interested.

The OCDSB website has been updated. It is now an accessible website, including different languages and the option to have it read aloud. Every school website has been converted to the new platform. The school will be able to push alerts out on snow days etc. There is an option for doing it by text message. They are trying to figure out the parent portal part of the website. There is a student portal to get to the e-learning environment. They are trying to get teachers to put more information on the portal. There is a section on the school site for the school council. A parent can have an account to update it, or staff can manage it.

The Board has \$15.5 million for new hardware over the next 5 years, mostly Chromebooks and tablets. The goals are to have 1 device for 4 students, a projector in every classroom, and replacing 10% of the devices per year. There are not enough people at the Board to mount projectors at the moment. Each class will have a tech tub with 5 devices. There are issues with the wifi - a lot of online

traffic is not education related. The Board is worried about bandwidth usage. They need to increase bandwidth by 8 times to meet Ministry standards.

7. Items from previous meeting

Purdy's chocolate: Because we will be selling berries before the holidays, we will look at this for Valentine's Day/Easter instead. (Update: look at this for December since berries will be later.)

Valentine's dance help: We still need people for this. The dance will take place Friday February 9th from 7-9 pm. Leslie B can help organize. The DJ has been booked. We need to get items for the silent auction. We will include this in the December newsletter.

8. New business, open ideas

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at the school: The Board is developing guidelines for purchasing these. They should be in all schools by September 2018. Leslie M will find clarification on this.

Leslie M will also look into when school photos will be coming.

9. **Adjournment, next meeting:** Leslie B adjourned the meeting. There will not be a meeting in December, so the next one will be January 10th.