

## Briargreen Public School Council

### Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2017

#### Present:

Sharon Creasey	Andrea Horton	Amy Henry
Sarah McLaughlin	Helena Manera	Anny Bei Wang
Suzann Taylor	Christine Thomson	Monica Hucal
Olfa Omrani	Leslie Bader	Kelly Bagg
Amanda Banford	Yueying No	Yusra Al. Mohammed
Mohamad Hamad	Ali Makdevari	Cecilia Cheng
Courtney Edwards	Stacey Elliott	Sarah McLaughlin
Leslie McLeod (principal)	Elissa Burrows (teacher rep)	

(apologies if any names are spelled wrong, please let us know so we can correct it)

1. **Call to order:** Council Chair Sharon Creasey called the meeting to order and welcomed the group, particularly the new families.
2. **Agenda:** Approved by Amy Henry, seconded by Helena Manera.
3. **June meeting minutes:** Approved by Sarah McLaughlin, seconded by Helena Manera.
4. **School renovations,** Leslie McLeod: Briargreen is like a new school for all students, those who are new to Briargreen from Leslie Park and other schools, plus returning students because of the renovations. There is a blend of open and closed learning spaces. Four classes are currently in portables until the renovations are finished. There is one new kindergarten classroom, which isn't quite finished yet, plus renovations to the existing 3 kinder classes. Leslie gave everyone a tour of the school, showing the common spaces, the classrooms with options for combining neighbouring classes, where the temporary library will be until the new one is ready, etc.
5. **Principal introduction:** Leslie McLeod introduced herself and described her professional background. She has worked in education for 20 years, beginning in the Upper Canada Board, then moving to a private Jewish school where she was a teacher and then a vice-principal. She moved to the OCDSB as a classroom teacher and then vice-principal. She became the principal at Briargreen about 3 ½ years ago. Leslie is passionate about engaging students in learning, and student wellness. She said that Briargreen is lucky to have great staff and a great community. We have more EAs this year – 4 full time.
6. **School council,** Sharon Creasey: Sharon explained how Council works. There is currently one meeting per month, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month. This schedule could change if people vote to change it. Leslie attends all the meetings. There is a teacher representative who usually attends the meetings, tonight it is Mrs. Burrows. The teachers could take turns in this role.

Parents can nominate themselves to be parent representatives on the Council. This means they can hold a position on Council and they can vote on Council business. For quorum, at least 50% of the parent reps must vote. This can be done in person or by email. There is an unlimited number of parent reps. Council positions of chair, secretary and treasurer must be elected.

## 7. School Council Elections

Secretary: Andrea Horton acclaimed.

Co-treasurers: Monica Hucal and Helena Manera acclaimed.

Chair: Since no one volunteered to be nominated, the position is open for now. It could be a rotating position, with different people taking the role every month. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a rotating or permanent Chair, let us know.

8. **Result of vote regarding the price of milk**, Sharon: This vote was conducted by email at the end of the last school year. Council voted unanimously to increase the price from \$0.67 to \$0.70 per carton. This is on par with other schools.

## 9. School reports

School happenings, Mrs. Burrows: International Dot Day will be on Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> for the primary students. This is based on the book "The Dot", which is about creativity. Classes will be exploring different materials in art and are encouraged to wear polka dots or bright colours to school that day. Classes are working on problem solving. The grade 3s will participate in the Swim to Survive program in October. (Update: this has been moved to June.) The juniors had their first day of three days with the group Improve with Improv, which is a drama program. The first school assembly of the year will take place on Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup> for grades 1-6. There will be a review of school expectations, and a slideshow. Leslie will spend time with the kinder classes separately.

Principal's report: Initial EQAO results: We haven't received the results from Leslie Park yet. Briargreen scores are lower this year because of student absences, which result in a score of 0.

Principals are talking about school learning plans and wellness plans, which are required for all schools. This will include anti bullying – teams will be developed soon for this. The whole Board will be focusing on math again in the school learning plans. We will be adding some of the approaches that Leslie Park was using for recording and assessing student learning. The school learning plan looks at where our students are and what our priorities are. We have looked at problem solving for the last couple of years, e.g. communicating our thinking and applying various strategies. Schools choose a strategy or tool that is proven to help students in a particular area. Last year, we did standing whiteboards to promote problem solving, working together and creativity. This included talking through solutions, bouncing ideas off others. We also worked on independent problem solving. Teachers learn from each other and participate in other training to enhance their skills. Students' language skills are built on year after year.

Meet the teacher night will take place in early October, and parents will be able to see the renovation work that has been done.

## 10. Council reports

Treasurer's report, Sharon, in Dean's absence: The ledger from last year was shared, including the fundraising activities and their profits. We give the money raised to the school and vote on how it gets used. Leslie will provide us with a proposed budget on what teachers would like to buy with the money. It was suggested that we could consider giving some of the money to the Extended Day Program (EDP) for activities and resources. However, it was noted that EDP enrolment numbers are small, so this would not benefit a lot of children. Here is a link to the Treasurer's Ledger for last year: <https://bgpscouncil.files.wordpress.com/2017/09/briargreen-school-council-detailed-general-ledger-from-2016-08-01-to-2017-07-31.pdf>

Fundraising report, Amy Henry: Amy is the Fundraising Coordinator, and is always open to sharing the position and hearing new ideas. Feel free to email her if you have ideas and/or would like to help. At the moment, we will probably have most of the same activities as last year. Mrs. Tea's Grade 5 class will run the popcorn program again, which will start in October. The popcorn is from Kernels at Carlingwood and is nut free. There is a question about whether the students might be allowed to eat the popcorn at school this year since we no longer have carpets. Leslie will discuss this with the custodian. Orders for food programs – pizza, Subway and milk – should be submitted this week. Ideas from Leslie Park: Cake Walk, Chapters night where Chapters donates a portion of sales to the school. This can be done with restaurants too. Here is a link to the Fundraising report for last year: [https://bgpscouncil.files.wordpress.com/2017/09/fundraising-activity\\_31jul2017final.pdf](https://bgpscouncil.files.wordpress.com/2017/09/fundraising-activity_31jul2017final.pdf)

11. **Upcoming school council events:** Welcome back BBQ, Andrea Horton: The BBQ will take place on Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for several volunteers to help run the event, as well as baked goods for the bake sale. Reminders will be sent out soon. If it rains, it will be held in the gym.

Scientists in the school will be coming. There will be a Science PRO night for families (students and parents) in October. We are waiting to hear if we get the grant from the Ministry so we can confirm the event. (Update: this has been moved to February.) Movie nights will be held in November, March and May. The bake sale will take place in December. The Valentine's dance will be February 9<sup>th</sup>. Our used book fair will happen in May.

School events: Monday September 25<sup>th</sup> is school photo day, including family photo sessions from 4:00-6:30, on a drop-in basis. There will be a Halloween parade as usual.

12. **New business, open ideas:** We don't usually have Council meetings in December or March. We could have a standing item on the agenda about whether we need next month's meeting.

There was a suggestion that we could consider supporting a school that doesn't have a school council. We looked into this before, but decided not to do it at that time. But we could revisit this, particularly if we know of a school in need. We do support some families within the school with lunch programs, field trips, gift cards for snow suits, etc.

13. **Adjournment:** Sharon adjourned the meeting.