

Minutes



March 20, 2019
James Bolton Public School Council

Meeting called by: Dave Atkinson, Chair
Type of meeting: School Council
Meeting chaired by: Dave Atkinson.
Council Secretary: Jackie Fraser

Attendees: Laurie Allison, Isaak Dyck, Jackie Fraser, Jen Coleman, Dave Atkinson, Gillian Swanson, Grace Desousa, Jackie Thornton, Kristina Lisk, Pam Kirk, Danielle Belle-Hopkins, Grace Denzinger, Jenn Alviano, Amanda Simpson, Laura Fantin

Regrets:

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Everyone was welcomed to the meeting, and everybody introduced themselves.
2. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** Dave explained that the potential conflict of interest is if you are a teacher with this Board, you cannot vote on any money related issues. He explained that it's also appreciated to disclose if you are a Peel Board employee. There were several teachers and Peel employees present but since we do not make money related situations, this is not an issue.
3. **Review of Agenda and Minutes of meeting held Jan 16 2019:** There were no carry forward items from last meeting.
4. **Role of School Council Members:** There are three components that make up a School Council's Mandate:
 - Promote the best interests of the school
 - Facilitate two-way communication between the school and parents/community
 - Act as an advisory body providing ideas and suggestions to assist the principal, trustee, and superintendent in making decisions on educational issues
5. **Meeting Dates:** The next meeting is May 15.
6. **School Council Goals for the year**
 - School Yard Clean-up day will be held on April 27 which is a Saturday morning. Volunteers welcome!
7. **Principal's Report:**
 - Staff updated: Melanie Morphet, a TA had surgery and has returned. Stephanie Rusak, a TA has gone off on maternity leave, and has had a baby girl. The TA that covered for Melanie has been hired for Stephanie's maternity leave. We have 4 full time TA's

- Board hiring/staffing situation: not related to the new cuts announced on Friday. There was locally funded priorities money for special education teachers. Schools with very large amounts of kindergarten classes got their own special education teachers (didn't happen at JB). This was about 70 jobs total, which could impact about 150 total teachers (some part times to make a full time). This money is no longer available, so some teachers may be surplus to the PDSB so they may have the opportunity to go into the LTO pool.
- Mme Pantarotto has the opportunity to teach at a different school so she will be leaving at the end of the year
- Numbers predicted close to the same for next year. Projection is 490. With that projection, we will keep a full time VP and 1 ½ secretaries. Its when numbers drop to 470-475 that those positions may be reduced. With those numbers, we do not gain or lose a teacher at this point, though we lose .1 of a special education teacher. There is a teacher that wanted to reduce her teaching assignment to .9, so things will stay status quo.
- Curriculum: There was an English Language Learner (ELL, formally ESL) consultant at today's staff meeting which was very insightful. There are a higher number of ELL students at JB then one would think. Most of them are Canadian born children.
- Climate: Downs Syndrome awareness day is tomorrow. Autism awareness is in April, as is Day of Pink (bullying awareness). Instead of speaking about these days at an assembly, the school will do awareness over the announcements as they are often difficult for our younger students to comprehend. A suggestion was made to wear house colours on these awareness days to keep it simple.
- Safety: Parent volunteer offence declarations are due March 31. Staff declarations are happening as well. Spring fire drills will happen. There will be no more shared food due to allergies. This does not apply to food programs happening in the school, as these are opt in programs. The issue was when there was unplanned food being distributed in class. On this topic, a parent requested more information when registering for school. Especially when registering part way through the year, or if family if from another country, they may not know nuts are not allowed, indoor shoes are requested, or even what time school starts and finishes. It was requested that the school do another Epi Pen training for volunteers.
- Events coming up: Home and School will meet tomorrow morning. Big gulp (initiative to drink more water) next week. Chocolate sales wrapping up, going very well. Staff luncheon was very nice and very appreciated. What the staff really liked is being able to be together. Thanks to the volunteers that made that happen! May 8 will be Start with a Smile for KG from 6:00-6:45. May 15 also from 6:00-6:45 will be a welcome to grade 1 open house. There will be a family night happening with different curriculum areas represented, to be combined with the spring BBQ. Music Monday will be held on May 6. Families are welcome.
- 187 people (grade 4 and 5) attended a Toronto Symphony Orchestra presentation. It was very successful, some students got to sing with the symphony, some got to play their recorder with them, and they were involved in an improv rapping session.
- Education week will be celebrated April 8-12. Each day will be a different spirit day, and the grade 5's will be doing their talent show on April 10.
- Public health pledges. The school has been working on choosing 2 pledges to work on, and they will be doing healthy beverages, and physical activity. Starting in April, milk sales which have been 3 days of chocolate and 2 white will swap to 3 white and 2 chocolate. It was suggested to switch to 2% instead of 1% to help with brain development. Water is the drink of choice on the new Canada's Food Guide.
- Vaccines: You can be suspended if you do not vaccinate and have not gone through the formal "opting out" process

8. **Business/Questions:**

- Question about separating primary and junior ebreaks. This will stay the same as it has been. Some schools have a large population with a small play space, but we are the opposite. With a small staff, and large space, it would be very difficult/unsafe to supervise the space with ½ the staff on duty at a time.
- Pebbles vs a softer surface for the playground: It has been investigated, but it is VERY cost prohibitive. We are on the list, but its not likely to happen anytime soon.
- The KG pen will be getting a sandbox installed, as well as a mud kitchen.
- A digital sign is on the horizon for JB!
- Information was handed out about the board's Parent Involvement Committee conference to be held on March 30. Although the deadline to register has passed, there is still space, so if anyone is interested, please contact the school.

9. **Adjournment of Council Meeting:** It was unanimous that the meeting be adjourned.

FUTURE MEETING DATES: May 15, 2019. All meetings are held at 7:00 in the staff room. Babysitting can be provided by contacting the school office prior to the meeting.