

Brisbane School Council – Meeting Minutes

**January 17, 2023,
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting**

Meeting called by:	Lee Cross -chair	Type of meeting:	Monthly
<p>Welcome - Land Acknowledgement and Anti Racism Statement</p> <p>Jenn updated the Council on Brisbane's practice of sharing a land acknowledgement at the beginning of meetings and morning announcements as well as an anti-racism statement as a commitment to equity.</p> <p>Jenn then read the land acknowledgement and anti-racism statement aloud</p>		Lee Cross / Jenn Oussoren	7:00
<p>Approval of Previous minutes</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about sending minutes separately from the agenda sooner after meetings happen so Council members can review and ask questions. Going forward, minutes will be sent separate from agenda as soon as they're prepared.</p> <p>Motion to accept November minutes made by Elaine, seconded by Val. Passed with unanimous support.</p>		Diana Arajs/ Lee Cross	7:05
<p>Chair Report</p> <p>Nothing to Report</p>		Lee Cross	7:08
<p>Financial Report</p> <p>There was a suggestion that the Fundraising report should be moved up the agenda to before the Financial Update so that Fundraising can report on program successes and revenues first. Hillary updated that the Fundraising account currently has \$119.46.</p> <p>The Silver Birch allocation for \$3,000 still has to be withdrawn, but prior to that, there is \$4,870.29 in the general account.</p> <p>Lunch program revenues are at \$1,012.91 from pitas, etc.</p> <p>Playground maintenance account currently has \$5,499.50</p>		Hillary Snoek	7:10

<p>Yearbook fund – There has been no movement since our last meeting so \$1,377.59 remains in the account.</p> <p>We should plan to give bus drivers (approx. 20) an end of year gift as last year. The school gives out a \$10 gift card to Tin Roof right before holiday break and then Council covers the cost traditionally of the year end (June) gift. Budget for this would be \$200 set aside.</p> <p>Scientists in the classroom – there is \$3,700 in account waiting to be spent. During COVID the program moved online which was not of interest to teachers and now it may be returning to in-class activities so Jenn will keep us posted about what can be spent and when.</p> <p>There was a question around what funds are needed for the year and what our fundraising goals will be. Jenn went over some technology needs within the school – ipads that are obsolete and need to be replaced. In terms of a target for fundraising, we could decide to put funds towards this. Could we have a technology in the classroom goal as a council?</p> <p>Library resources were also mentioned. This could be another focus for fundraising. Jenn and M. Siegel did not have the total raised from the book fair but it was very successful and will be reported to Council at our next meeting. Library and literary resources are always needed.</p> <p>There was no resolution to the focus of fundraising or the amount needed. Can revisit at next meeting in February.</p> <p>Val suggested looking into Flip Gives and seeing if we can purchase technology or other items through that program in order to get funds back for the school.</p>		
<p>Fundraising Report</p> <p>Terra Cotta Cookies raised \$2,980.00 Thanks so much to the parents who helped on the day of pick-up to sort and hand out orders. Not a lot of issues and was a relatively easy fundraiser.</p> <p>Idea came up to have people call through order forms to remind people about pickups. At least 40 orders didn't pick up so we could call with reminders if we did that fundraiser again. An idea was raised to align cookie order pickup with the holiday concert so that pickup happens the same day. Concerns were raised about how busy the school is on holiday concert day but we will revisit in future if that fundraiser is done again.</p>	<p>Val Bush</p>	<p>7:25</p>

There was a discussion about switching pita day to a sub day. Some parents have come forward suggesting they would like more variety though some are still happy with pitas. It was asked if we could do both and Val suggested that might be seen as a slight to the participating businesses who would not like to see each other dropping off subs/pitas at the same time. Moved to a vote which initially didn't pass given number of voting members in attendance. One vote was changed to a vote in favour and subs were voted in as the next food offering. Val undertook to get subs up on SchoolCashOnline ASAP and to keep the price the same going forward even though subs are slightly more expensive so the school makes less on subs than pitas.

Given the fact that the vote did not initially pass due to a lack of voting members in attendance, Diana undertook to report back to the Chair and Co-Chair which members have missed two meetings as per the guidelines reviewed at the beginning of the year. Lori and Lee may then choose to reach out to reiterate the importance of attendance or those not able to consistently attend can choose whether they would like to move to Interested participation status.

Jenn talked about what may be an easier solution to the decisions around what to offer students and how to establish variety in lunch program offerings. She will share more information about School Lunch Box, a program which offers to organize food delivery programs with various local participating restaurants so that we could potentially offer multiple options to students at one time. Pizza will be switching to this program after March Break to lighten the workload on Dawn and the office around pizza days. Jenn will report back on which restaurants may be able to participate and how we could introduce this new approach to food offerings.

The point was raised about affordability and accessibility and ensuring that families know that there are funds available should they wish to participate but not be able to for financial reasons.

A unanimous vote was taken to move to School Lunch Box after March break so that at the least we could offer both subs and pitas and potentially more foods. Jenn will share a full list with council asap.

Popcorn days were discussed. Val feels the traditional popcorn days are too much work for volunteers and there is an outside company that will offer flavoured popcorn and allow us to outsource much of the work. The school makes slightly less profit but not as many volunteer resources needed.

<p>Council voted unanimously to use the new popcorn supplier to hold popcorn days once a month on Thursdays. Jenn will try to coordinate spirit days on popcorn days where possible so that it seems like more of a celebration.</p> <p>Council gave Jenn some feedback on e-blasts and communications to families, suggesting that they be more frequent and detailed. Jenn said that the office will start sending more reminders going forward and we can gather feedback about whether the needs of parents are being met at future meetings.</p> <p>Val closed with an update that the Read-a-thon will be discussed at the next council meeting</p>		
<p>Teachers' Report</p> <p>M. Siegel reported that he and the staff are excited about structured literacy happening in the school. The approach in past years has been different – educators have returned to a phonics approach to teaching literacy. Resources are starting to come into the school to support this new approach. The key to the success of this method is having decodable resources to support literacy learning. Teachers are already seeing results. A lot of great progress is happening already.</p> <p>Would be great to have additional resources to send home for families to use</p>	M Siegel	7:45
<p>Principal's Report</p> <p>Brisbane had a great holiday concert, so nice to be in person and celebrate together. There was an art gallery throughout the school in hallways and December saw a return to more Brisbane traditions such as carol singing in the mornings</p> <p>There will be field trips to the River Run Centre in Guelph tomorrow and Thursday for grades 1-2 (English and French). By the end of the year all grade 1-6 students will have a chance to participate in River Run field trips (as we now know, field trip on Thursday was subsequently cancelled due to inclement weather and will be rescheduled)</p>	Jenn Oussoren	7:50

<p>Brisbane's Kindergarten registration is underway beginning Jan 10 for English and French immersion</p> <p>School play is coming up for grades 4-6 students – Jan 26 at 6pm. Tickets are on sale for families of children in grades 4-6 first and then next Monday tickets will go on sale for the rest of the school</p> <p>Jan 27 is a PA Day for report card writing. Gearing up for the end of term 1 and beginning of Term 2. Report cards to parents on Feb 16 online</p> <p>Looking for volunteers for the reading tutor program and for lunch supervisors, either paid or volunteer.</p> <p>Huge thanks to Val and Council for the Terra Cotta fundraiser, was amazing to see all the support</p> <p>Jenn is looking at putting together literacy information night to explain new approach to literacy program</p>		
<p>Parent Involvement Committee</p> <p>None of the PIC representatives were in attendance so Lee will follow up and have an update emailed to Council</p>	<p>Pamela Geiger & Ashley Medeiros</p>	<p>8:00</p>
<p>Yearbook Committee</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>8:02</p>
<p>New Business</p> <p>Rachel updated Council on fundraising for the snack program – the Live Free fundraiser has changed from previous years. Instead of living without something, students will write their belief and what their favourite food is on the cards that get sent home. Rachel has already secured a donation from the Erin Agricultural Society for \$500, and the overall fundraising goal is \$3,000. Students who wish to donate will be encouraged to bring in a toonie or give through SchoolCashOnline.</p> <p>In February, Rachel will send information for announcements and e-blasts, newsletter, etc. The week of Feb. 21st, classrooms will have boxes for toonies and SchoolCashOnline will be accepting donations. There will also be an option to send a cheque to Children's Foundation marked for Brisbane snack program</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>8:04</p>

<p>Parent Council can also donate if the fundraiser is short funds, there was support of this idea. We can also consider pasta or popcorn days or other fundraisers if we need to in order to meet the goal. Jenn reiterated what an important program this is for the school to be able to offer students food as needed and the snack program on Fridays. Several council members thanked Rachel for all her work and reiterated support for the program.</p>		
<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Next Meeting will be Tues, Feb 21 at 7pm in person in the school library, weather permitting</p>		8:15