

SEPTEMBER 2023 SIB PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES



Tuesday September 26th 2023 @6:30pm

Mission Statement: *The mission of Sir Isaac Brock Public School is to celebrate the uniqueness of each individual, and enable all students and staff to achieve their highest potential, through mutual respect, individual opportunity and support of school, home and community.*

Meeting is being held at the SIB library. Those in attendance are: Michelle Macdonald, Amy Hunt-Brito, Tiffany Sinker, Ahmad Karimi, Sreeja Venngopal, Jessica Stanley, Harpreet Jhooti, Erica Eugenio, Gita Arya, Suranjana Hazarika, Manjeet Singh, Debabrata Chowdhury, Tejinder Singh, Carrie Fischer, Kozue Schmidt, Claire Munro, Steve Viveiros, Sarah Sinkovits.

As this is the very first meeting of the 2023-2024 school year, we started off with everyone introducing themselves and sharing what their connection to the school is

Steve: What is the purpose and function of Parent Council? We are all here to share and discuss what is currently happening at our school and bring forth new ideas for what we would like to see and do in the upcoming year. We encourage everyone to come out to our monthly meetings and have your voices heard. No one is obligated to hold a position or to do any work. These meetings are a great way to simply stay informed and for you to contribute your thoughts and opinions freely. We are an inclusive school and want everyone to feel welcome.

We Are SIB. I'm sure you have all noticed the right hand side of the entry hallway, where there are portraits and stories of 16 of our students from last year. These students were chosen as we felt they best represented the beautiful diversity at our school. We will have 16 new students chosen for this school year and hope to have their photos and stories up soon.

My focus is not on fundraising but rather on the student experience. We strive to make everyone feel welcome and included. Parents are encouraged to tell us what is working and what is not. There are so many different ways that you can be involved at school aside from Parent Council, so please take advantage of these opportunities when and if you are able to.

Principal's Report (Steve): I don't have much planned for tonight's meeting, but I will say that I can do tours of different classrooms and workspaces and be more informative overall, if more people show up to these meetings and commit to attending on a regular basis.

A big focus for this year is the UGDSB Multi Year Plan. Its purpose is to inspire a love of learning and develop engaged, globally literate citizens. The 4 main pillars of this plan are to Inspire a Lifelong Love of Learning, Champion Health & Wellbeing, Ensure Equity of Access & Outcomes, and to Lead Through Sustainability.

There has been quite a bit of reorganization in our school that has happened recently. I know that not everyone is thrilled with these changes, but these decisions were necessary and had to be made for a number of reasons - including building resiliency. For example, there were kindergarten classes with 30 students, and that is way too many. We hired another teacher and that brought down all the class sizes, which benefits everyone. We had Occasional Teachers moved up to contract positions and many other movements from within our school, which is wonderful to see.

There are lots of activities going on at school right now! I'm proud of all the staff for making these things happen, as it leads to lots of positive vibes around the building and happy students. Parents, please check out the school website as there is a slideshow that contains a lot of information on it, informing you all about what is happening at school right now. From sports clubs, to chess club, to library helping and all kinds of things for students to sign up for and participate in. It's a great tool for your personal information as well as to look at with your child(ren) and encourage them to sign up. Some of the activities available will change with the seasons.

Parent Council has a structure consisting of a few key roles that are available for its members to fill. All members are included and may volunteer for any position they would like. The following positions have been filled by their respective Parent Council members, as below:

Co-Chairs: Amy Hunt-Brito & Tejinder Singh

Secretary: Harpreet Jhooti & Gita Arya

Treasurer: Michelle Macdonald

Fundraising: We have completed our Blaze Pizza fundraiser and we raised a total of \$532!

Parent Council members have all voted and approved for this money to go towards the library and outdoor improvements. As far as fundraisers go, we need to be cognizant of all the spending we are doing in school and most especially, the amount of money that we are asking parents for and the frequency in which we do so. We know there are many families who can not afford pizza days or any other fundraisers we offer throughout the year. This is why I do not like to give special recognition to the top supporters for the very reason that we don't want to highlight the privileged kids and make those who are impoverished feel left out. Again, we strive for our school to be an inclusive space for all.

As always, our school provides a snack and lunch program for those who are in need, free of charge, everyday. Last year, approximately \$16,000.00 was spent by outside organizations who so generously fund these programs, to provide our students with healthy snacks and the items required to make bagged lunches for those who are in need.

Our current fundraiser, Fresh From The Farm is ongoing until October 10th and can be found on school cash online. SIB will receive 40% of all proceeds! Delivery of all products will likely be sometime in November, but this still needs to be confirmed once all orders have been received.

Big Box of Cards will be our next fundraiser which we will hold sometime in late October or early November, so stay tuned! SIB will receive \$11 from every box sold!

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday October 17th 2023.

Meeting adjourned @7:42pm