

NOVEMBER 2023 SIB PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES



Tuesday November 21st 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: Harpreet Jhooti, Michelle Macdonald, Amy Hunt-Brito, Emma Lee, Sarah Sinkovits, Steve Viveiros, Tejinder Singh, Kozue Schmidt, Carrie Fischer

Meeting commenced @ 6:30pm

Principal's Report: We have been working on making updates to the school library. While bigger projects such as carpet and painting will be completed at a later stage, we have managed to move some shelving and make a few purchases. We have put in a work order to cut down the size of our current circulation desk, to make it smaller so that the space can become more functionable and efficient. This will allow us to set up a separate area for students to be able to sign out media on their own, similar to the public library with a self serve area, while freeing up some space to create another student use area. In the Media Room, we have a permanent painted green screen which students can use for video animation, and we have equipment set up and ready for podcasting. We have purchased an SIB backdrop that students currently use for announcements and was also used for the first day of school photos this year. It can also be used in the future for graduation photos. We have created a fun vertical Lego wall for student interaction, and are planning an area where devices can be stored on a wall mount. The main goal of the library is to be able to bring the students down there to do things they can't do at home and in their classrooms. We want it to be a fun and engaging space for all our students to enjoy.

We have also made a couple of updates to the kindergarten yard. We have put down some stones and repaved the path. The soccer nets that were previously purchased have been moved into storage for the winter, but will be brought back out in the spring.

UGDSB Multi Year Plan - There are a total of 32 students in grades 1-8 that didn't meet the requirement in reading, and a total of 14 students who didn't meet the requirement in math. In reading, 83% of those 32 students are in grades 1-3. From now until the next report card, the board would like to see students who are progressing well continue to stay on that path and continue to do well, and those that are not meeting requirements to get the support they need to catch up to where they should be. There will be targeted interventions for each division of students so that we can get everyone up to speed. Attendance is an important factor in academic success. The parents of students who miss a total of 5 school days during each reporting interval (from the beginning of the school year up until the time of progress reports,

from progress reports up until term one report cards, from term one report cards up until term 2 reports cards) would need to have a discussion with staff to find out why their child was absent and whether or not their attendance is negatively impacting their learning and success. These discussions are important so that we can identify any difficulties parents may be having and offer our support. It also allows for better planning before trips/vacations as a plan of action can be put into place, to ensure students don't miss out on a large chunk of their learning and fall behind.

We are seeing a large migration of immigrant families to the SIB community. We have a SWIS worker (Settlement Workers in Schools) who comes in and meets with these families to help assess and assist with meeting their needs. We have sent out a survey to all SIB staff members, to find out what each student's family identifies as their receptive language so that we can communicate better with parents and caregivers at home. It is easy for us to send written communication home in any language, we just need to identify which languages are required so that we can bridge the communication gaps between school and home. There is also a second survey that focuses on which celebrations students participate in, as it allows for better school planning.

Alisha Chambers is our new Office Coordinator. Congratulations Alisha and welcome to SIB!

Report Cards were made available online last week, and Parent-Teacher Interviews are taking place this week. These progress reports are an early assessment and tell you how well your child is doing so far, and identifies areas where there may be some challenges. All parents/caregivers should be having a discussion with their child's teacher about how they are doing in school.

Fundraising: Most of the Fresh From the Farm orders have been picked up, and the Big Box of Cards fundraiser has concluded. The card boxes have been distributed to students who placed orders and we raised a total of \$988!

Parent Council would like to hold a Friendship Dance-a-thon on Wednesday February 14th 2024, in the gym during the school day for all students to enjoy. More details to follow at a later date.

Family Fun Night date has been changed to Thursday June 20th 2024 from 5pm-8pm. Can we look into hiring a company who will come in and bbq hotdogs and hamburgers? This would be a more cost effective option than the food trucks we have had in the past. We will still have an ice cream truck.

Treasurer: Our chocolate bar fundraiser account is currently sitting at a negative dollar balance, and this needs to be rectified. **Parent Council members have all voted and unanimously approved for \$245.01 to be transferred from the greening account into the chocolate account, to bring it from a negative balance to a zero dollar balance.**

Food: Can we look into the idea of having a treat day fundraiser for the students, where Parent Council members would sell hot chocolate and popcorn? We will look into this as a possibility sometime in the new year.

Starting on Wednesday January 10th 2024, Parent Council will be offering the option for students to order Subway for lunch! This will be offered every Wednesday for the month of January, at a cost of \$6.00 for each six inch sub. There will be both meat and vegetarian options available to order on School Cash Online. All subs will be pre-made and labeled ahead of time, and delivered to classrooms as we do with the pizza lunch orders.

In January, our school focus will be on wellness. Parent Council would like to look into having a Zumba instructor come into SIB for an opportunity for all students to engage in a fun activity together.

There will be no meeting in December. The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday January 16th 2024 @6:30pm

Meeting adjourned @7:40pm