

FEBRUARY 2024 SIB PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES



Wednesday February 21st 2024 @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, Amy Hunt-Brito, Emma Lee, Steve Viveiros, Jen Apgar, Jide Aho, Humaina, Khurram, Nadeem, Erica Eugenio, Amandeep B, Vipin H, Tejinder Singh, Carrie Spencer.

Meeting commenced @6:30pm

We started with introductions as there were some new members who came out to tonight's meeting. Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us!

Principal's Report: Term 1 final report cards were available online on Thursday February 15th 2024. We hope everyone feels good about their grades and their progress so far this year. We do have a small number of students who are still struggling, but we are all working tirelessly to support everyone. As always, if parents/caregivers have any questions or concerns, they are welcome and encouraged to reach out to their child's teachers.

The city is well underway with installing the new playground structure. Next summer all of the asphalt will be re-done, so there is no point in adding any new playground items this year. One thing we will look into adding is more sitting areas. We will use armour stone (similar to what is in the outdoor classroom) as it is durable, lasts a long time and doesn't require any maintenance.

Our Student Leadership group has done a phenomenal job so far. We have added signs below the bell to show where the gym, multi-faith prayer room, and washrooms are located. The students have added many items to the multi-faith prayer room to make this room an inclusive space for the entire student population. We have also installed a Vacancy/Occupied sign on the front of the door so students know when the room is in use. We have 4 language/welcoming ambassadors at every school assembly. These students have their names written in English as well as their native language on their nametag, so that non-English speaking guests at our school can easily identify them to be able to ask for directions or general information.

SIB now has 560 students, and 14 of these new students joined our school community within the last few months, and they are also newly landed immigrants. With language being the biggest barrier to communication, we have placed an emphasis on making sure we have ambassadors, school signage, and translated correspondence going home to parents from the school.

If the school keeps growing in number of students, will we need to add more portables for next year? No, we have already submitted our numbers for next year. At present, we will be saying goodbye to approximately 58 grade 8 students who will be graduating in June and moving on to high school, and we will have approximately 42 kindergarten students who will be joining us next year.

On Friday March 1st 2024, we will be running our Live Free campaign! The goal of this campaign is to provide funding for the school to be used for its nutrition program, as well as raise awareness to the issue of hunger. Donations will be accepted on school cash online and go directly towards providing students with fresh, healthy food. At SIB we provide free meals and snacks to students in need everyday, and free snacks are always available to all of our students. Providing this food program for the school costs roughly \$10,000 - \$12,000 per year. Thanks to all our generous donations from parents and community partners, we are able to provide food security to all of our students. This year we would like to offer a healthy snack for the whole school to enjoy, to promote healthy eating and as a way to celebrate this campaign. We are thinking of possibly setting up a make-your-own yogurt station for teachers to bring their students to (plain yogurt, fruit of your choice as a topping). We are still working out the details but we would need parent volunteers to help us out. If you're interested, please contact Mr. Viveiros.

Financial Report: The Friendship Dance-A-Thon that was held on February 14th, raised a total of \$2,479! This money will be put towards playground maintenance. We have received a lot of positive feedback from students, and we are considering possibly having another dance towards the end of the year, as a year-end celebration.

Family Fun Night: We will begin collecting silent auction items and buying prizes for the games. The water wagon application has already been submitted so we are hoping they will come out again, and pizza will be available for purchase. We are looking into possibly having The Lions Club come out and BBQ for us (hamburgers, hotdogs, vegetarian options included). If there are any community members who would like to help out with providing cultural food and activities for the night, it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Mr. Viveiros if there is something you are able to contribute.

Perhaps SIB can look into conducting a parent orientation for newcomers to the school? This will help with navigating their way around the school, but also understanding proper safety procedures regarding the Kiss and Drive. We could also provide a map for drivers to be able to see where the entrance and exit points are, and where the drop off point is? We can look into above ground signage for the drop-off point.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm