

Adam Beck School Council Minutes - APPROVED

October 24, 2024

6:30pm

In-Person & Virtual

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
Caitlin Newnham Kurt Uriarte Maria Bettas	In-Person Alex Goncalves Zaid Murakami Christina Tziallas Laura Timms Patrick Stewart Charlene Isaacs Helen Katz Shannon Samantha North Teresa Miller Alison MacPherson Japhanie Sham Online Dima Amine Jeff Jay	In-Person Jessie Lamontagne Naomi Johnson Simone Gargano Adam Bleau Online Jayme Last Christa Jay

Welcome

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Co-chair Teresa welcomed everyone.

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Land Acknowledgement

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Co-chair Shannon gave the land acknowledgement.

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Minutes Review

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MOTION: Shannon asked for approval of the September meeting minutes. Sam proposed the motion and Zaid seconded the motion. As there were none that were opposed and no edits proposed, the minutes were passed.

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Agenda Items

Committee Updates

Mental Health and Well Being

- wellness room has been updated - calming kits restocked, new furniture
- new classroom regulation kits distributed to all classes
- looking to organize in person sessions

Visiting Artists

- some teachers have booked in some experiences
- National Ballet of Canada was brought in (5 dancers came for free to perform)

Grants

- meeting with Kurt tomorrow to look through previous proposals and a liscence for grants portal

STEM

- reach out to teachers done (35% response rate)

Adopt a Family

- kick off at holiday party
- working with C55 to select families

Staff Appreciation

- group put together to celebrate the staff

Garden Committee

- grant went out yesterday for Pollinate T.O - will find out in February

NOTB

- Friday April 11 at Balmy Beach Club

Monsterbash

- in 2 days
- going well
- currently tracking on budget and volunteers have been great
- caretaking costs have increased (14+ hours needed) - for future events be sure to be aware that each year there is a 25% increase each year! (this year our sponsors are coving the cost)

Movie Night

- Movie Night was on Friday
- brought in the most money than ever before
- great attendance; lots of new volunteers
- kids were well behaved
- next Movie Night Dec 6

Pizza Lunch

- volunteer noticed that not all students are getting what they ordered
- there is always extra pizza ordered - volunteers to let the organizers know if there are issues with orders

Spirit

- Spirit Wear ordered and coming in on November 4

Holiday Party

- 19 people volunteered in 2019
- still looking for volunteers

- Sam North will be co-leading with Teresa
- Maria has offered to support getting more volunteers
- working through a vendor issue - TDSB will charge vendors to be present (permit still pending)

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Treasurer Update

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- Starting balance Sept 1, 2024 \$32,576.37
- less cheques written for pizza lunch, babysitting, etc. + money in (movie night, pizza lunch, etc.) = ending balance as of Oct 23, 2024 \$30,889.93
- biggest transition was moving from Alterna to CIBC
- TDSB has recommended we not work with cash anymore
- school to save \$300 as a float
- Alex and Julia have authority to sign for cheques with CIBC
- CIBC does not charge fees but if they pick up a deposit they charge \$27
- nearby CIBC branch is cashless
- if anyone needs to issue a cheque to council, we must use TDSB not Adam Beck School Council
- Julie and Alex to discuss with Admin the idea for automatic transfers (ie. for pizza lunch)
- EFT account set up is \$150
- un-allocated funds \$5,680 from Spring Budget process
- priorities for spending (from admin)
 - Math Up licenses for junior teachers \$2,034
 - Student workbooks ~\$2,956 for grades 4,5,6
- Shannon asked if there are any other proposals re: spending the un-allocated funds?
- Monsterbash, Holiday Party and Mayfair have 12h each that would require extra funds for caretaking fees
 - \$700 required to cover these costs
- Formal Vote:
 - increase Monsterbash fee by \$300 (Yes: 4 online; 10 in person)
 - Holiday party increases by \$200 for caretaking (Yes: 6 online; 11 in person)
 - increasing Mayfair by \$200 (Yes: 6 online; 11 in person)
 - \$5000 unallocated funds for Math Up (Yes: 5 online; 11 in person)

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Principal's Report

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- busy month
- Sept 30 was orange shirt day → fence near play structure has a memorial heart and students were able to write down what orange shirt day meant to them
- Oct 4 National Ballet of Canada visited Grades 1-6 came to gym for 1.5h performance (they brought in a special floor)
 - question asked why K students were not invited - whole school would not fit due to specialized floor and the length of the performance early in the year were both reasons for decision not to include K classes
- Busy month for sports - X-Country at Sunnybrook (23 runners advanced to South Conf. Finals; 4 boys headed to finals on October 23)
- curriculum night (October 9) was a success
- Oct 9 Touch Football won against Westwood; final played on Oct 21
- Toronto Public Health came in to do lice checks on Oct 9 and went through every student and found no lice
- Oct 10 Boys Soccer Tournament

- Oct 11 PA Day - teachers worked on school issues, training on reading development due to new reading screeners, compliance training (safety for staff and students)
- tomorrow (Oct 25) Pantry Park 'Fun Run' with the Run Club (Monday and Wednesdays) for primary panel to help them prepare for X-Country in future years
- Oct 31 Costume Parade after lunch around the community (Ms. Smith is looking for volunteers to be a specific spots along the route)
- CCAT occurring this week for Grade 3 classes (digital test) for measuring verbal, non verbal and quantitative reasoning (Monday and Tuesday will be make up days if any students missed the CCAT this week)
- Announcements daily at school - shift for November to online announcement system that is a Google Doc that teacher will share with students daily
 - reason is that teacher can select when timing is best to share the announcements
 - will support all students (visual and oral)
 - allows for consistency of messaging in classrooms
 - allows for panel specific slide presentations ie. for Heritage months
 - screen outside office will share information for students and parents/guardians
- 1:1 device program for Grade 5 has finished for the first round - second round has occurred but these devices are still coming in around 2-4 weeks
 - school has computers to lend to students if they have not yet received their device
- seeking lunch room advisors (\$16.87/hour for first 30 days)
- meeting with facilities manager about a new sandbox for Kindergarten yard
- finally got e-waste removed that was outside the library
- message put out to community about grade 5 going out for lunch - some grade 5 students are going out with grade 6 students; if grade 5 students have a note to go home for lunch, the expectation is that the Grade 5 students are going home, not joining grade 6 students; school works with grade 6 students around safety and expectations through assemblies -this messaging is not provided to grade 5 students; for grade 6 this is a rite of passage (a milestone for Grade 6 students)
- library update: tables, shelving, removal of computer lab, new books, new circulation desk, 2 zones (work zone with tables and whiteboard; carpet squares open space with tables that can be moved around to suit the needs of the classroom - currently working on organizing library)
- status on new clubs - student population was asked to reach out to teachers to support clubs they were interested in running (100 students approached teachers to ask for their support with supervision)
 - ie. Art Club this week had 45 students drawing autumn leaves using a video
 - Dungeons and Dragons club
 - announcements share these opportunities
- Caitlin shared 'inclement weather bags' provided to Grade 1-6 class (moving away from watching videos)
 - K teachers have a lot of items in their classes to support staying off screens
 - Mental Health Committee created bags with board games, cards, lego, etc.
 - bags provided to all staff
 - suggestion from parent - many families have games to provide - maybe council could do a shout out
- Question about reading screeners - every student will be given a level based on a reading screener that teachers will utilize (this will be reflected on the first report card)
 - letter went home from the board (both French and English students)
 - french screener Acadiance
 - english screener Nelson
 - screener levels will support teachers to know how to propel students forward by modifying programming
 - screeners will be happening soon
 - families are encouraged to reach out to teacher to have conversations to learn more

New Business

Math Up Presentation

- Kurt and Maria presented on Math Up to utilize the unallocated funds
- Math Up is not a full program - teachers still have to go to curriculum and pull their math program together
- it gives a baseline for base strands to be met in each class
- teachers can add and augment based on their students
- Math Up is supported/developed by Marian Small
- an online program - available in French and English
- supports with teacher planning (provides minds on, action, and consolidation and 'Your Turn' for each lesson)
- can be tailored/customized to each class
- math is very different now than it used to be
- requires a license in order to be able to access the site
- request for 4 licenses (previous promotion license expires in Jan)
- also comes with books - looking to purchase practice books for students for grades 4-6 (Rubicon Publisher)
 - books contain the 'Your Turn' portion that is part of the online platform
- currently only 4 teachers (grade 6 team) are using the licenses as well as some Grade 5 students in split classes
- hope is for entire junior division to have this and then in following years to expand
- \$5000 being requested
- currently only grade 6s have books
- Question - what does success look like for this program?
 - can we track use and student outcomes/improvement? Let's pick a metric to measure this year (ie. EQAO)
 - what are the ongoing costs each year?
 - workbooks (not necessary but program is much richer)
- Question - why is the school focusing on math? What about literacy?
 - UFLI has already been purchased to support the new language curriculum
- suggestion for next year's budget proposal - could teachers discuss it's use and share benefits with school council

School Start Time Change

- update from Kurt
 - possible path forward for next year (2025-2026)
 - there are policies and processes that need to be followed regarding community engagement in this process
 - Kurt communicated with SO to be pointed in the right direction to find necessary documents that outline the process
 - what will the community part look like?
 - we are lucky that we don't have to consider bussing

- no matter what some people will be happy; some won't
- have to consider before and after school care
- definitely cannot do this for this year
- Kurt will keep us updated
- Question asked - what about a simple survey?
 - research needed into what the survey would include ie. what is the % of replies required to move forward with next steps
- Question - is one of the steps looking at how many AB students are utilizing before and after care?
- Question - who dictates when before and after care program start and end?
 - not sure
- Kurt also shared that he has to go through transportation
 - just because we don't have buses now, doesn't mean we won't in the future
- Kurt to come back with updates at the next Council Meeting

~End~