

Richard Beasley Elementary School

School Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: February 11, 2025
Location: Virtual - MS Teams
Time: 6pm
Prepared By: Leah Deveaux - Secretary

Council Attendees: Jo Ann Corbin Harper (Principal Staff) Karen Allen (Staff) Sarah Burnett-Murray (Chair) Leah Deveaux (Secretary) Allison Bonanno (Member) Chris Murray (Member) Lesley van der Villet (Member) Lauren Fedson (Member) Regrets: Sema Hassan (Member)	Public Attendees: Harueran N. Shelby B. Corina H. Osariemen
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Introductions, Land Acknowledgement & Virtual Norms by Jo Ann Corbin Harper

Introduction of School Council

- No election was required, all positions were unopposed.
- Provided overview of the roles of council.
- Noted council has no treasurer, which is fine for now as fundraising is already set up for the year.
- Council consists of 5 parent representatives, one teacher and one non teacher member.
- Meetings are to take place four times in a school year, majority of members must be present to hold meeting. If Chair or Principal are not present meeting will not occur.
- Hybrid (in person and online) meetings will be available.
- Minutes of meeting will be available on the school website and also on the board inside the school's entrance.
- Members are:
 - Chair: Sarah Burnett-Murray
 - Co chair: n/a
 - Treasurer: n/a
 - Secretary: Leah Deveaux
 - Member at large: Chris Murray, Sema Hassan, Lesley van der Villet, Allison Bonanno, Lauren Fedson
 - Teacher rep: Karen Allen
 - Non teacher rep: n/a

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Future Meeting Dates

- A discussion on which dates would work best for council members occurred, the following dates were selected:
 - Wednesday March 5th, 2025 at 6pm
 - Wednesday May 14th, 2025 at 6pm
 - Wednesday June 11th 2025 at 6pm

Principals Report on Board and Schools Goals

- Jo Ann Corbin Harper provided an overview of the goals set for the school in four core areas: Reading, Writing, Math & Wellbeing.
- Overview of the goals, metrics and actions for each category:
 - Reading: Goal of 60% of Grade 1 students achieving standard reading on Term 2 report. Actions - provide small group instruction to struggling readers with an aim to increase reading rate by at least 20%, to provide staff with reading specialist and program support, and to engage in additional monitoring to support conversations.
 - Writing: Goals to increase writing stamina in all students, developer writer's voice using descriptive language, increase accurate use of conventions. Actions - provide clear and explicit instructions to students, and daily opportunities for authentic writing tasks.
 - Math: goals to build better understanding of effective math instruction, design a responsive math learning environment, and to have hands on approaches to math concepts. Actions - educators collecting, discussing and analysing data related to student learning and making available a variety of manipulatives from the math cart for students to use.
 - Wellbeing: Goals a decrease in students using inappropriate language it was noted that students report moderate to high levels of anxiety. Actions - monitoring conscious discipline usage in schools, implement a mindfulness strategy, create spaces in classroom so students can see themselves as members of the class and school community.
- School improvement planning has changed from September to June, and is now done January to December. A new one will be put in place for February.

Q: Will the school be offering an after-school reading program this year?

A: We have offered one so far this year, uncertain if another will be offered, dependent on funding.

Q: Is there an opportunity to provide more independent reading activities such as reading or book clubs for students to do on their own at home?

A: This relates to a later topic - See **Spirit Weeks** under Other Business.

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Fundraising

- Last year a survey completed by students to help select special lunches that would be available to order.
- MacMillians Fundraiser was just issued - lines up with Easter.
- Pizza is offered every Thursday.
- Popcorn - switched from Kernels to FarmFresh due to pricing.
- Cookies continue to be sold for special events, as the students continue to request them.
- There is interest in offering a Family Movie night event - Parents drop off children for a supervised movie at the school - this could be added for next year. This offers an opportunity for high school students to get volunteer hours.
- School will be hosting a movie afternoon in June during school hours.
- School pictures are a fundraising event.
- Krispy Kreme - very successful fundraiser for our school.
- Poinsettia fundraiser - did not occur this year, but may continue next year.
- Consideration for offering Chocolate Bars, however after looking into it, the cost was too high and it conflicted with MacMillians.
- Any new fundraising would replace an existing fundraising activity, not looking to add more fundraisers.
- Provided an overview of fundraising proceeds and where the money is being allotted to.

Comment: Noted that some people like the new popcorn, while others are not sure.

Action: Consider surveying students about whether they prefer new or old popcorn.

Q: How well were poinsettias received last year?

A: They were very well received and brought in a lot of money. It didn't happen this year due to time.

Q: Consideration to push for fundraising through Canadian companies and Canadian products?

A: The school supports local small businesses and will continue to do so.

Volunteers

- Looking for parent volunteers to come in to read to children, a vulnerable sector police check is required.

Other Business

- School is planning special event for Black History Month, focusing on kindness and anti-bullying. Will consist of centers created by teachers for the school to rotate through, including photo center to create messages about anti bullying and empathy.

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Q: Are there going to be more **Spirit Days**?

A: Yes, would love to have a spirit day devoted to dressing up as the books students are reading: a book about a favourite athlete or other person and dressing up as that person as an example. Other examples: read a silly book, dress silly, read book about culture, dress as culture.

Q: Could there be a book drive?

A: Any books collected cannot be used in the school library but can be used in teachers personal classroom libraries. There is usually a bin at the Open House for book donations to classroom libraries.

Q: Can there be a book sale using donated books that the children can buy for 50 cents?

A: That is an item to consider for the open house, a bring a book / take a book table.

Action: consider adding bring a book/ take a book to Open House

Q: Kids get excited about dances, at some other schools, dances are used as a way to raise funds, has this been considered?

A: These can be profitable, fundraising has to be allocated to something, however it is an option to consider especially if done during the day.

Action: consider dances as fundraising activity for next year

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Q: Recently learned of a school doing a Glow-A-Thon using pledge forms, bulk purchased glow sticks and donated blacklights in the gym. This was done during school hours and brought in significant funds for the school, something to consider for future.

A: We can chat about this idea, would be a good idea to add additional funds for purchasing iPads. Currently the school has a 2:1 ratio for iPads for students, typically we use the Krispy Kreme money for this.

Action: consider Glow-A-Thon as future fundraising activity for next year

Q: Have Cultural Days been done before, kids being able to dress up and do presentation on a culture?

A: This has not been done before, but we have been discussing it with the grade 4 / 5 teacher. Teachers do presentations, kids can ask questions about cultures/places.

Action: consider Cultural Days

Q: If someone forgot to fill in the School Council form, are they still able to join?

A: No, as the deadline has passed. However can attend all meetings and can raise concerns through the Chair.

Next Meeting: March 5th, 6pm - in person at the school or online using the Microsoft Teams link which will be provided the day of the meeting via the school messenger.