

Minutes

Bedford South Home and School Association

Executive Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Present

Debra McKnight

Susanne Kassouf

Melva Reynolds

Helen Healy

Dan Gilfoy

Kim Stairs-Freeze

Jodi Blondon

Shannon Sutherland

Louise Boyd

Beth Pyesmany-Arsenault

Shelley Anderson

Sam Bungay

Regrets

Kerri-Lee Brockway

Call to Order

Meeting Commenced at 7:05 pm

Welcome/Introductions

HSA Chair, Debra McKnight, welcomed the group and thanked everyone present for volunteering with the Home and School Association this year. She asked each member present to introduce themselves to the group. Debra stated that her main goal as HSA Chair this year is to engage as many Bedford South parents as possible. She would also like to increase the volunteer recruitment efforts and increase fundraising revenues.

Approval of Minutes from June 2015

Motion to approve the June 2015 Minutes was made by Susanne Kassouf and seconded by Shelley Anderson. All were in favour, motion carried.

Administrative Report

Principal Helen Healy discussed:

- HRSB Continuous School Improvement (CSI) initiative. 2015-16 is year two in the HRSB CSI Initiative. BSS's proposed plan for deeper comprehension strategies in Literacy and enhanced reasoning in Mathematics was submitted to the board and approved.
- The 2015-16 school year got off to a great start. Class lists were posted earlier and the balloon system (parent volunteers/teachers holding balloons with classroom names) worked well.

- YMCA Newcomer Support Person, Mr. Tilak Aurora, did a presentation to all BSS teachers regarding newcomers and how best to support them in the classroom.
- Bedford South took part in the Annual Stand Up to Bullying Day again this year. A highlight of the day was a picture that was taken of all of the students standing on the back hill.
- Bedford South welcomed 50 students transitioning from Ecole Grosvenor Wentworth Park.
- Bedford South has a new school bus this year. Parents are reminded that there is no parking in the bus loop when picking their children up at school.
- Bedford South School is now a participating school in the Halifax All-City Strings Program. The program will be open to students in Grade 4 for 2015-16; eventually opening up to students in grades 4-6.
- The Grade six band will be participating in a Band Camp on Saturday, September 19.
- Bedford South School will host a Curriculum Night on September 24th. Parents are invited to come for a short presentation in the Cafetorium followed by a presentation in their child's classroom.
- Earth Rangers will be coming to Bedford South on September 25, 2015 for a presentation to the students in Grades 1-5.
- BSS will host an Eid Dinner on October 5th.
- NS Provincial Assessments are scheduled for September 28th-October 9th, 2015. Students in Grade 3 will be assessed in Reading and Writing. Students in Grade 4 will be assessed in Mathematics. Students in Grade 6 will be assessed in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Kerri-Lee Brockway was not present at the meeting; therefore, HSA Chair, Debra McKnight passed out the Treasurer's report on her behalf. The cash ending balance as of August 1st was reported as \$7, 254. Debra made note of the \$6390 disbursed to the school since the last HSA meeting in June 2015. The funds were used to purchase two Sparks Spin Bikes, 2 scholarships for CPA Allen (for former BSS students), and the P-3 Literacy Program and classroom wish lists.

Old Business

Tim Outhit Donation—Susanne Kassouf reported on the status of the donation offered from Bedford Councillor, Tim Outhit. Mr. Outhit has offered BSS a donation of \$1000. Should BSS decide to use the proposed donation towards a Bedford South Sign on Southgate Drive, Mr. Outhit will require something in writing on school letterhead. When he receives an official request he can submit the request to the city of Halifax for approval.

Cultural Diversity Calendar—Beth Pyesmany-Arsenault reported that there is still a box of unsold calendars left over from the Diversity Calendar Initiative. She reminded the HSA that the calendars, if sold, would be pure profit for the HSA, as the expenses of the Initiative have already been covered. She

recommended setting up at sales table at HSA events this fall. Also, Bounty Print would consider a second run if demand for the calendars warranted it.

Open Executive Positions—Debra McKnight brought to the group’s attention the vacant positions on the HSA Executive. Still open is the position of Vice Chair, as well as, one Member at Large position. Debra stated that so far one person has expressed interest in the Member at Large position. She would like to advertise the vacant positions to the wider Bedford South Community and then hold elections, if necessary. Beth Pyesmany-Arsenault suggested an advertising blitz; a phone message, and a sign on the HSA Bulletin. Dan Gilfoy offered to prepare a message advertising the positions on the new school messaging system.

New Business

- Ice Cream Social. September 17, 2015. Susanne Kassouf is spearheading this initiative and Sam Bungay has sourced the donations for the event from his contacts. The event is sponsored by Farmers Agro-pur. Susanne reported that preparations were on track. She expressed a need for volunteers during the clean-up of the event.
- Fundraising Objectives—Debra McKnight prepared a tentative draft of Fundraising Objectives for the 2015-16 school year. A draft of her proposal was submitted at the meeting. Of note, was the spending wish list of \$12, 500. Debra calculated (conservatively) that HSA could fundraise \$15, 250 if the events tentatively scheduled (Fall Family Bingo, Best Seat in the House raffle, Parent Social, Winter Family Bingo, Art Expo, Spring Fair) raised as much monies as in years previous. Debra would like to concentrate on securing some sort of Corporate Sponsorship for HSA events this year. As well, she would like the HSA to consider assigning each fundraising event a specific wish list item. At each HSA fundraising event this year she would like the HSA to announce which specific wish list item the event will be raising funds for. As well, she would like to communicate the fundraising wish lists, as well as, fundraising successes to the BSS community regularly, in the form of an HSA newsletter.
- Support of the Eid Dinner—Debra McKnight requested a motion to donate \$250 to Mr. Tilak Aurora and his committee to help support the upcoming Eid Dinner. The motion was introduced by Susanne Kassouf and Seconded by Kim Stairs-Freeze. All were in Favour, motion carried.
- HSA Calendar of Events and Event Leads—Debra McKnight introduced a roundtable discussion about the Calendar of upcoming HSA Events and requested volunteers to lead each event. The roundtable discussions resulted in the following commitments:
 - After a discussion about a Fall HSA activity, it was agreed that the HSA would attempt to introduce a Fall Fair. Jodi Blondon agreed to take the lead on this event. The Fall Fair is scheduled for Sunday, October 18, 2015, from 3:00-5:00 pm.
 - Family Skate—Shelley Anderson and Louise Boyd agreed to take the Lead on this event. The skate is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 25, 2015.
 - Stuff a Bus—Shelley Anderson and Louise Boyd agreed to take the lead on this event. The Event is tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2015.

- Best Seat in the House Raffle—Beth Pyesmany-Arsenault and Kim Rose have agreed to take the lead on this event. The raffles will take place at the Holiday Concerts scheduled for December 8th and 9th, 2015.
- Parent Social—Debra McKnight will form a sub-committee and take the lead on this event. After discussion it was agreed to hold the Parent Social on Friday, February 26, 2016.
- Family Bingo—Shannon Sutherland and Kerri-Lee Brockway have agreed to take the lead on this event. The event is scheduled for January 21, 2016.
- Teacher Appreciation Week—after discussion it was determined that there are several accepted dates for the celebration of Teacher Appreciation. It was agreed to table the discussion about Teacher Appreciation and schedule the exact dates, as well as the event lead/s at a future meeting.
- Art Expo—the event is scheduled for April 28, 2016. It was agreed to table the discussion about the fundraising part of the event, as well as the event lead/s for discussion at a future meeting.
- Spring Fair—Diane Walker has agreed to act as Spring Fair Chair again this year. Debra McKnight will help her form a subcommittee. The event is scheduled for May 27, 2016.
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon—Debra McKnight, Shelley Anderson, and Kerri-Lee Brockway have agreed to take the lead on this event.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Shelley Anderson and seconded by Beth Pyesmany-Arsenault.