

Parents In Partnership (PIP)

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 13, 2024

Location: BSLS Birchdale

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Natasha Jamison at BSLS.

Attendance

Members Present:

Marianne Lozinski (President), Natasha Jamison (Vice President), Ashley Verhelst (St. Mary's Representative), Stephanie Rempel (Secretary), Jackie Culley (Co-Treasurer), Heather English (Co-Treasurer), Crystal Apire (Fundraising Chair), Jenn McCrea (School Principal), Jenn Penner (Childcare Director)

Other parents and attendees:

Jesse Jamison, Stephen Polkowski, Carla Ruremesha Nahayo, Kyle Rempel, Jacco Kooy

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, carried.

Introduction, devotional and opening prayer:

The meeting begins with attendees introducing themselves and their association with the school. Natasha Jamison led a devotional reading focused on energy and strength, quoting Isaiah 40:29-31. Emphasis was placed on the importance of renewal and support in the challenging role of caring for children.

Jesse Jamison opened the meeting in prayer.

Financial Report:

Delivered by Heather English.

- Total funds raised to date approximately \$3,700.
- Donation still to come in of \$500 from Peak of the Market.
- Grade 9 Business Group raised \$263.80 from a candy and cookie campaign.

- Over \$8,000 raised for cancer research over the last through various school activities, namely "Hands for Terry".

Principal's Report:

Delivered by Jennifer McCrea

1. School Activities Update
Extracurricular Activities:
 - Walking club and volleyball games have commenced.
 - Musical performances for Christmas are being organized.
2. Outdoor Activities Policy:
 - Students will go outdoors unless temperatures reach extreme lows (e.g., below -30 degrees Celsius).
 - Parents are encouraged to ensure children are dressed appropriately.
3. Student Support Programs
 - Ms. Meilleur, Ms. Bernhardt, and Mrs. Duguay will facilitate support programs including reading groups and social groups.
 - Parents were reminded that classroom teachers are the first point of contact for concerns.
4. Upcoming Events
 - a. Annual Dinner and Auction- March 1st, 2025
 - Volunteers will be needed for donation calls and organization.
 - b. BSLs Student Movie Nights
 - i. December 12th, 2024 @ 5:00pm
 - ii. February 6th, 2024 @ 5:00pm
 - c. Babysitting Night - Saturday, November 23rd
5. Community Engagement
 - Emphasis on the importance of positive online reviews for the school.
 - Parents encouraged to report inappropriate reviews.
 - Suggestions made for outreach to local churches and congregations for fundraising support and to highlight BSLs.

School Board Report

Delivered by Jennifer McCrea

1. The BSLs brand video was shown and explained as one of the tools that is being used to highlight the schools expansion into highschool.
2. Capital Campaign- Discussion on fundraising goals with a target of raising \$2 million towards the High School expansion.

Child Care Report

Delivered by Jennifer Penner

The BSLS childcare program is dedicated to building and running an exceptional environment for children, with a constant focus on improvement and commitment to continuing education for staff and themselves. The staff takes joy in observing children's engagement and interests, fostering a belief in their capabilities. They are attentive to the movement and sensory needs of the children, recognizing the importance of outdoor time for brain development and resilience. The program emphasizes that children can remain active and productive regardless of the weather.

1. Current Room Capacities:
 - Infant Room: 38 children
 - Preschool Room: 16 children
 - Daycare Room: 16 children
 - Morning Nursery School at Church and we are almost ready for an afternoon program.
2. Cultural Integration:
 - Efforts are made to educate newcomers about winter, reflecting a beautifully changing demographic within the program.
3. Upcoming Events:
 - A Christmas celebration is planned for early December, including a small presentation where children will practice songs.
4. Needs:
 - There is a goal to develop a costume trunk, and the program is seeking gently used puppets or fabrics for this purpose.
5. Communication:
 - Mrs. Penner is consistently available for discussions and support, fostering an open line of communication with parents and staff.

Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with an invitation for questions and open discussion. Natasha Jamison thanked everyone for attending and emphasized the importance of communication between parents and staff.

Future Meeting Dates

January 16th, 2025

February 12th, 2025

May 14th, 2025

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Marianne Lozinski at 8:04pm.

Minutes Prepared by: Stephanie Rempel
Date of Preparation: November 14th, 2024
