

School Council & BPAC Meeting

MINUTES

September 9, 2025

Meeting called by; Brittany Fraser
Type of meeting; Monthly
Note taker; Nicole Walker
Chair; Brittany Fraser
Attendees; Meike Thomsen, Wanda Smith, Nicole Walker, Brittany Fraser, Krystina Edwards, Wayne Jackson, April Renn, Marlen Reibig, Shelly Sochr-Joyce, John Metcalf, Brit Hart, Andrea McFaul, Sarah Van Sloten, Kyle Schaub, Alida Young, Sara Corbeil. Online; Eric Shorten, Sherry, Michelle Edwards

1. Motion to open School Council Meeting

- Time; 6:32pm

2. Attendee Introductions

3. Principle Message & School Report – Meike Thomsen

- Land acknowledgement
- See attached for Meikes admin notes
- Additions from meeting
 - Really neat school-wide project in the works. Inspired by the book 'Restorying Education'.
 - Where do we come from? All students will use pins to represent where they come from, on the same map in the main hallway
- Many fun updates!
- Each grade team at Bowcroft will be meeting with each grade team at Belvedere. Collaboration!
- Question – have you seen any big changes, in attendance, since the start time changed to 9:03am? Nothing substantial
- Question – Lower numbers this year; will there be staffing changes coming?
 - Nothing yet. The big difference is that we will have less support for the grades 1's if the overall numbers stay low.
- Ongoing talks with the new CBE maintenance person about what is next for Bowcroft. Nothing planned at the moment. Wayne to check in with Area 1.
- Classroom Photos will be taken, along with individual photos on September 15. No Spring photos this year!

4. Close School Council Meeting & open BPAC Meeting

- Close; 7:16pm
- Open; 7:16pm

5. Action items from June Meeting;

- Buddy Bench
 - Would love to get a buddy bench for the back compound, for September.
 - This is a place where students who are feeling lonely or left out, can sit. This will give teachers an opportunity to step in if someone is quietly having a hard time, but it will also give other students an opportunity to engage with these students and invite them to come play. Much work will be done with students on this topic in the Fall
 - *September Update – Shelly talked to Bowness High School shop teacher. They are unable to help us, due to legality issues.*
- Outdoor Classroom and outdoor grants update – Michelle
 - Michelle to work on grant with Brit - possible grants to cover stuff like shade cover for outdoor space, benches for around play area, more trees, basketball nets and update of that space
 - *September Update – Michelle – no grants at the moment*
 - a. *Design of the space – Michelle to follow up*
 - b. *Action – Sarah V, Michelle and Brit to talk*
 - i. *Apply for grants – priority – shade structure*
 - ii. *Brit/Sarah to start work on it ASAP and keep Michelle in the loop*
 - Shade structure – Brit – *update – Move to January meeting*
 - Working with Meike to see what will work out in the space
 - Hopeful most of the money will come from grants and donations
 - Basketball net – Brit/Andrea – *missed talking about this. Move to October*
 - Plan to sand and repaint the board themselves. When this is done, they will take a look at the rim and see if that needs to be replaced
 - Plan to do this over the summer
- Mural – Brit
 - Brit may apply for another \$1000 BCA community beautification grant – not sure this new idea will qualify for a grant, but she'll try
 - 'Welcome to Bowcroft' on fence
 - 'Welcome', in English, German, and the indigenous language spoken on this land
 - Once there is a plan Sara is going to help with grant writing
 - Meike to talk to staff about how we can incorporate all the students in this very exciting project
 - *September Update – Brit/Andrea to lead*

- *Conversation about paint. BPAC has some money to offer, but we would like to try for donations/grants first*
- *Happening asap – students working on the artwork, and Brit/Andrea to write out the letter*
- Playground – *move to next meeting, or a less busy one in the coming months*
 - Committee to form in Fall
 - Take a look at Colonel Walker School – this is what admin would like to see
 - Accessible to all and challenging for the students that would like that

6. New business;

- Executive changes this year;
 - We need to fill the following positions. The current person in these positions will work with the new parent for the entire year to make sure they have a good handle on all the things;
 - President (current Brittany Fraser)
 - Treasurer (current Krystina Edwards)
 - Casino Chairperson (current Nicole Walker)
 - Volunteer Coordinator – currently vacant
 - Nicole to do up a little poster with a QR code, to our BPAC FB page. This poster could be placed at the front door of the school, and possibly out during school events.
- Treasurer Report – Krystina
 - 2025/26 school year budget discussion
 - Outdoor space, playground area beautification, sensory room upgrade, robotics, ballroom dance residency
 - Budget for this school year
 - Vote for next years budget amount
 - a. \$35,000 – motion by Brittany
 - b. Second – Wayne
 - c. All in favour
 - We'd like to put at least \$5,000 away for the next 8-10 years to help with building of the next playground
 - An electronics cart was ordered, for our 90 new acers coming this Fall. The \$3000 will put aside from this years budget, so it will not impact the 2025/26 admin budget
- Fundraising – Marlen

- Popcorn Thursday start this week – April
 - Bowcroft Swag open until November 13
 - Apple fundraiser – Marlen to have information to Nicole by September 15
- Book Fair - Nicole
 - November 25 – 28
 - Parent Teacher interview week
- Casino – Nicole
 - 2nd Quarter of 2026
 - April – June
 - Date will be announced later this Fall
 - Elbow River Casino is the location

7. Anything else?

8. Close meeting;

- Time; 8pm

ADMIN UPDATE BPAC September 9, 2025

1. Re-Storying Education by Carolyn Robert; World map; pins, What are your roots?
World Map: each staff member and student puts a pin in on their country of origin; each student and staff member fills out a little 4x6 sheet with their name, the flag of their country/ies of origin, the language(s) they speak at home (first language) and the languages they can speak.
2. Meet the teacher on
 - a. Sept 25 (evening): Teachers will do presentations at 4:30 and 5:30pm (talking about their expectations, showing writing rubrics of year-end achievement levels; math etc
 - b. and Sept 29 (all day, no school) for IPP meetings only or any meetings that teachers feel they should have
3. Winter concert: Dec 9 (Tuesday) is community, Dec 10 (Wed) is German, choir sings
4. Music:
 - a. 3x each week (Ms. Hou is full time music this year!)
 - b. Senior choir on Tuesdays (gr 4-6)
 - c. **Spring concert on May 21:** German program in AM, community in PM
5. Staffing:
 - a. Ms. Leah went to West Ridge as E secretary – big promotion, position is posted; Ms. Mahwish Shariff is the new hire and joins us from Haysboro school. **She speaks Urdu, Punjabi, English and some Hindi**
 - b. 4 probationary teachers, 1 probationary AP, 1 temp (maternity leave, Anna Ferzacca, return date end of February)
6. Time & changes:
 - a. Designated recess time: 10:30-10:45am for div 1 and 2:15 to 2:30pm for div 2
 - b. Lunch now 12:20 to 1:00
7. Facility update
 - a. 2 new boilers installed, new pipe in hallway (hope it will get painted
 - b. Room 4 , crack repair and paint
 - c. Bistro: it did rain through again (sigh)
 - d. Sign outside is getting painted; the rust spots have been sanded at this point.
8. Learning on the Land: October 6, 8, 15, 17, Inuit Games with Danica
9. No hats or hoodies in class (the hoods of the hoodies) and phones and Smartwatches to the office
10. No more ROARS assembly. Assemblies need to be meaningful and engaging for students. Still doing Classroom Champion!
11. German:
 - a. Everything Deutsch, Susanne Hoffmann will be selling German books on Sept 25 from 1-6:30pm.
 - b. New A1 and A2 books and student work books. Price of the student work books is \$ 23.50 or \$24.50per student.
 - c. 153 students now. Biggest it's ever been. First time that there are sufficient grade 6 students to make a straight grade 6 class (20 students).
 - d. German student teachers coming: 5 or 6? So far