

**DRAFT**

**Bessborough School Council  
Meeting (by videoconference)**

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 pm

**Present:**

1. Andrea Bee
2. Andrea Jeffery
3. Geoff Lamb
4. Alison Steinman
5. Lisa Suutari
6. Christine Davis
7. Charlotte Fleming
8. Josette Katkic
9. Sarah Pooley
10. Eva Svec
11. Dima Nijmeh-Mantia
12. Kristin Leishman
13. Various Bessborough parents and teachers

**Meeting:**

**1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm**

**2. Welcome (Andrea Bee)**

- Welcomed Dima Nijmeh-Mantia to the Bessborough community
- Update on transition to operating as a School Council only, rather than a Home & School Association and a School Council together
- Discussed purpose and objectives of School Council

**3. Getting Involved (Christine Davis)**

- Reviewed various ways of getting involved at Bessborough, noting 2020-2021 school year affected by COVID-related restrictions on gatherings
- Welcomed interested parents to reach out to discuss opportunities for involvement

**4. November 2019 Home & School/School Council Meeting Minutes (Andrea Jeffery)**

- November 2019 meeting minutes approved: 1st Christine Davis, 2nd Alison Steinman, all in favour

**5. School Council By-Laws (Andrea Jeffery)**

- Overview of key provisions of School Council By-Laws
- Noted proposed By-Laws posted on School Council website and will be presented for approval at the next meeting

**6. Financial Status Update (Geoff Lamb)**

- Overview of 2020-2021 opening balance and operations budget
- Reviewed historical fundraising and events, noting no fundraising currently planned but will be re-assessed as is prudent

**7. Update from the Administration (Dima Nijmeh-Mantia)**

- Welcomed all parents
- Discussed Bessborough happenings since the start of the school year, noting a very high level of engagement from teachers and a focus on physical and mental health and well-being
- Responded to questions submitted in advance on the following topics:
  - Rationale for lunchtime rules and restrictions; noted these are in place for the safety of all
  - Changes to staffing or classroom allocations based on moves from or to virtual school; indicated none currently anticipated
  - Plans for last year's grade 8 graduation
  - Rationale for split classes
  - Update on replacement of school technology
  - Signage encouraging use of face masks on school property during (and just before and after) school hours; noted school is waiting for arrival of signage which once received will be posted
  - Plans for Halloween in light of COVID; noted this is still under consideration

**8. Meeting concluded at approximately 7:30 pm**