

SCHOOL CONNECTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

BRUCE TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOL

October 5, 2026

In Attendance

Margaret N., Tanya P., Nancy L., Sadaf C., Abdul R., Jen B., Ghadah Q., Abbas Q., Abide K., Nahla D-E., Biljana K., Aman S., Samra A., Jess L., Jennifer B., Sharlene S., Puja M., Monica H., Farah K., Yamam J., Hammad Q., Amna M., Sarah Z., (virtually)

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

- Intros of all in attendance. Welcome EVERYONE!
- Margaret leads the Land Acknowledgement
 - Land Acknowledgement is read each morning and BT and staff work to do deep connections with the students throughout the year
 - For the Day of Truth and Reconciliation, students all engaged in a learning experience where they were given an orange thread and 6 different coloured beads.
 - Each bead represented something different: remembering, learning, listening, respecting, including and acting
 - Staff (led by Tanya) made a commitment for this learning to be a year long journey across all grades to help deepen knowledge and understanding

Action Item Updates

Current Financials

- Forwarded balance from last year - **\$7811.94**
- When we talk about money that is being forwarded to right now, this is all through the fundraising we do at the school (Danceathon, food programs, Big Box of Cards)
- Work with admin. To figure out the needs within the school so we know where to donate ex. Gazebo from the Danceathon
- As of the June meeting, we were still waiting for totals from a few things, which is why we have an outgoing balance to start this year

Remaining Balance

- Ice Dawg sales **\$1385.89**
 - Suggested to go to Field Trips, helping out with transportation costs
- 2025/2026 Food Programs - **\$6426.05**
 - Suggested to go to Chromebooks

Vote on Funds

- \$1385.89 to go to Field Trip costs
 - First - Farah
 - Second - Jen
 - **Majority votes yes - \$1385.89 to go to Field Trip Costs**
- \$6426.05 to go to Chromebooks
 - First - Farah
 - Second - Amna
 - **Majority votes yes - \$6426.05 to go to Chromebooks**

Thanks to Jen

- Jen is moving on since she no longer has kids at BT
- She led the Danceathon for many years, as well as food programs
- Thanks to Jen!

First Day of School/Open House

- Both successful
- Lots of families!

PIC Conference

- As promised, Puja got info for the PIC Conference
- HDSB run Parent Conference to take place **Oct. 24**
- Registration is by **Oct. 9** (if you miss this date, talk to Puja or Amna)
- You are welcome to attend the whole day but don't have to
- Childminding, light breakfast, lunch all offered
- Keynote speaker
- Different workshops that you can sign up for
- Lots of options (for Slot A, Slot B and Slot C)
- Can choose what is most applicable to you
- Very clear what age each session is geared toward
- Email has gone out from HDSB and details are in the BT Blast and on our socials
- Transportation is provided if necessary
- Community partner booths to visit
- **ACTION - PIC Reps** will continue to promote PIC Conference on socials and in BT Blast

Big Box of Cards

- This was a hit 2 years ago so we will be doing this again
- It is already underway
- Samples were shown at the Open House
- Stay tuned for more info next week
- Hoping to get them by the end of Nov. for holiday gifts
- **ACTION - Sadaf** will connect with Admin. to get the ball rolling and give us more info at the next meeting

D&T Room

Sarah Z. was hoping to help this room be more utilized

- TBD

BT Constitution

- Currently under review to be updated
- Will send out for everyone's input shortly...stay tuned!
- **ACTION - Admin. and Co-Chairs** will connect to discuss

Adoption of June Minutes (incl Action Items Status):

First - Farah

Second - Puja

Minutes have been adopted

Explanation of School Council Role

Council Meetings - What to Expect

- 6 Meetings per year (around 1 hourish)
- Council provides input on different activities/fundraising ideas
- Finds out all the amazing learning going on at BT
- If something comes up that isn't part of the agenda, we will parking lot it until the next meeting or schedule another meeting if it is urgent

Why do we have a council?

- Your voice matters
- We keep students first
- Celebrate differences and diverse perspectives
- Keep everyone in the loop
- Build strong relationships between school, home and community

Your Commitment

- Attend all meetings
- Be present and participate
- Follow our norms - work together with kindness and respect and always a focus on the students
- Problem solve school problems - individual issues can be discussed privately with admin.
- Build connections - help strengthen relationships
- Enjoy the experience - bring positivity and have fun

Dissolving of 2025/2026 Exec

Outgoing Council Dissolved

- Margaret thanks outgoing council for dedication, work and commitment
- Lots of fun, connection and relationship building
- Excitement on students faces from the work done is incredible!
- 2025/2026 council is now dissolved

2025/2026 Exec Vote

Council Exec Roles

- PIC Lead and Rep(s):
 - Plans Parent Engagement/community events
 - 3 people interested in role
 - **2026/2027 PIC Lead: Amna M (acclaimed)**
 - **2026/2027 PIC Reps: Saniya and Javeria** (both were absent so this may require follow up)
- Secretary:
 - Responsible for taking detailed minutes and emailing completed minutes to Co-Chairs and Admin.
 - **2025/2026: Secretary Jess L. (acclaimed)**
- Treasurer:
 - Responsible for keeping track of Council Fundraising and spending
 - 2 people interested in the role
 - Harikrishnan S., not present so can't be voted in
 - **2026/2027 Treasurer: Ghada Q. (acclaimed)**
- CO-CHAIR(s):
 - Responsible for communicating with admin., exec and School Council
 - Making sure meetings run smoothly
 - Creating agendas for meetings
 - Ensuring unresolved action items are completed
 - Keep up to date with goings on of HDSB
 - 2 people max. For position, 3 people interested
 - Temitope not present so can't be voted in
 - **2026/2027 CO-Chairs: Sadaf C., Puja M., (both acclaimed)**

CONGRATS TO EVERYONE!

Key Committee Leads

Food Program Lead

- **Lead - Farah**
- Established amazing relationships with local food vendors
- Put together a great team of volunteers (food programs can't happen without them!)
- If you're interested in volunteering, please speak with Farah
- If anyone is interested in helping Lead with Farah, speak with Farah or Sadaf

Danceathon

- **Lead - TBD**
- will organize the Danceathon (our largest fundraiser)

- Lead a team of volunteers
- Jen has created a binder with all necessary information
- If anyone is interested in leading or helping, please send email to admin.
- **ACTION - Sadaf and Puja** will speak more about this at the next meeting

Communications

- **Lead - Monica**
- Sam will help!
- Will update facebook, website
- Send out information on PIC/school events to the BT community
- Work with admin. and give them updates for the blast

Future Meeting Dates

2026/2027 School Connection Committee Meeting Dates

- Monday November 2, 2026
- Monday January 11, 2027
- Monday March 1, 2027
- Monday May 3, 2027
- Monday June 7, 2027

Principal's /Teacher's Report

School Events

- Sept. 17 - Open House
 - Lots of families attended
 - Lots of community partners in the Gym
- Sept. 28 - Terry Fox Run
 - Kids had a blast
 - Lots of community building
- Sept. 30 - Truth and Reconciliation Day
 - See Land Acknowledgement above for more info
- Oct. 1 - Cross Country
 - 300 kids attended
 - Kids worked so hard

Teams and Clubs

- Jr. Basketball (supported by new coaches)
- Many more clubs will be beginning shortly

Winter Concert

- **Will be Dec. 2 and 3 during the day**
- Moved to daytime since some kids and families can't get here in the evening
- Admin. Knows daytime can be tricky for families, but this way all of the kids can attend and perform and families are welcome
- More information to come
- Team of educators are already hard at work planning

BT Breakdown

- 935 Kids (up slightly from last year!)

Meet the Staff

- 53 OCT
- 3 Admin. Assistants
- 5 caretakers
- 7 DECE's
- 14 EAs
- Support staff include CYCP, Social worker, IPL, Math Coach, Literacy Coach, PYC Ed consultant, Youth Settlement Worker, Speech and Language Pathologist
- 3 Admin.

What's New and What's Happening

- Newly painted stairwells and 2 classrooms
- Gazebo
- Emergency Procedures
 - 6 Fire Drills throughout year
 - Practice lockdowns 2-3 times per year
 - Hold and secures for potential threat outside school (no practice)
 - 1 evacuation practice (but students don't go offsite)

Other Items Discussed/Parking Lot

Parking

- Fire Route has been used as a Kiss and Ride throughout the years but this is a hazard
- Admin. has worked hard to ensure this isn't an issue anymore
- Admin. is out on duty to support this and it has been a success

Volunteers

- We are always looking for volunteers to help out with Food Programs and other events
- Need Vulnerable Sector Screening from Halton Police on file with the office
- Can be done online
- Connect with Admin. if you are interested and Farah will reach out

Playground

- Admin. has asked that the park be closed in the morning since school cannot manage supervision

- Some kids are just dropped off and it is hard to see who is being supervised by their families and who isn't
- Thanks for your help in continuing to support this

Doors

- Yamam is concerned with the entry/dismissal at door 12
- Doors are locked during the day for safety reasons
- **ACTION - Admin.** will look into someone supervising/holding the door at busy times

Chromebooks

- Question was asked if Chromebooks are for staff or students
- Starting last year ALL STUDENTS in grades 5- 8 are given 1:1 chromebooks all the way until the end of grade 8
- Same Chromebook used each year
- This will give the kids ownership and accountability
- Normal wear and tear is to be expected

Agenda

- Question was asked about how agenda is created
- Agenda is a standing agenda with many of the same topics (action items, food programs, fundraising, etc)
- Action Items/Parking Lot issues
- Anyone is welcome to email Chairs if they have something they would like to discuss

Action Items & Who is Responsible

- **PIC Conference**
 - **PIC Reps** will continue to promote PIC Conference on socials and in BT Blast
- **Big Box of Cards Fundraiser**
 - **Sadaf** will connect with Admin. and give us more info at the next meeting
- **BT Constitution**
 - **Admin. and Sadaf and Puja** will connect to discuss
 -
- **Danceathon**
 - **Sadaf and Puja** will speak more about this at the next meeting so we can start planning
- **Doors**
 - **Admin.** will look into someone supervising/holding the door at busy times

Thank You!

- What a great turnout! Thanks to everyone for attending!

Next Meeting

Next Meeting : Monday November 2, 2026