Briar Hill School Council Meeting

Date: September 29, 2026
Location: Briar Hill School & Online (Teams)

Part 1: Briar Hill School Council Meeting

Time: 12:34 PM

Chair: Alessandra Robertson

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1. Call to Order

The School Council meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m.

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2. Attendance

Nathan D. (Principal)	Alessandra R. (Chair)
Theanna B. (Secretary)	Angeles M. (Parent)
Sarah M. (Parent)	Tyler J. (Parent)
Nancy L. (Parent)	Leanne O. (Parent)
Emilia T. (Parent)	Kate T. (Parent)
Matt Field (Treasurer)	Gunter S.
Cheryl A (Parent)	
Larissa J. (Parent)	Martin H. (Parent)
Kelly M. (Parent)	Jill J. (Parent)

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3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Tova
Second: Mandeep
Carried

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4. Approval of Previous Minutes (June 16, 2026)

Motion: Tova
Second: Jill J.
Carried

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5. Principal's Report

It is always a pleasure to connect with School Council, and I appreciate the time and care you continue to bring to our Briar Hill community. I share regular updates with families through our weekly communication, so my updates at Council meetings are intended to complement that communication rather than repeat it. I'll keep this one brief and focus on a few items particularly relevant to Council.

Truth and Reconciliation
As we mark Orange Shirt Day, I want to acknowledge this important commitment at Briar Hill. Our work is reflected in our TRC Promise, and we approach this learning thoughtfully, using approved resources and considering the developmental readiness of our students. We are all on this journey together, recognizing that we may each be at different places along the way.

Enrolment & Supports
Today is our official enrolment count day, with **201 students** currently enrolled. This count determines our funding and staffing supports. With our current enrolment, I have received approval to increase **Jeannette Yee's ECP hours**, providing additional support from Kindergarten through Grade 2. We are also moving forward with hiring an **additional Education Assistant** to support identified vulnerable students in our community.

Finally, I genuinely value connecting with families. School Council provides an important avenue for conversation and feedback, and families are always welcome to phone or email. The days are busy, but I appreciate every opportunity to listen, answer questions and connect with our community.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Briar Hill School.

Appendix A. Briar Hill Council School Norms

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6. Voting in Council Members

Approval of Incoming Council Members

Approving Matthew Field (New Treasurer)

Approving Alessandra Robertson (New Chair)

Motion: Jeremiah

Second: Mandeep

Carried

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7. New Business

Alessandra spoke about the fact that the Welcome Back BBQ was cancelled due to a lack of parent volunteers. Parents are encouraged to look at the Council website and sign up for the Newsletter, as well as volunteer for the upcoming Halloween Howler. Volunteers will be secured prior to selling tickets to the event. The Halloween Howler will be on the 29th of October.

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8. Adjournment

The School Council meeting was adjourned at 1:02 PM

Briar Hill School Council

Meeting Norms (put together by Nathan DeBoer)

School Council is a community of adults coming together to support our students and strengthen the Briar Hill School community. We each bring different experiences, perspectives and strengths, and our work is strongest when we listen to one another, collaborate and work toward a shared purpose. We will approach our conversations with respect, care and a commitment to maintaining a positive and connected school community.

We agree to:

- **Keep students at the centre.** We will focus our conversations and decisions on what supports our students and strengthens our school community.
- **Speak openly and respectfully.** We will share ideas, questions, concerns and differing perspectives without personal attacks, dismissive language or disrespect.
- **Listen to understand.** We will give one another the opportunity to speak, consider different perspectives and remain open to changing our thinking.
- **Respect confidentiality.** Personal, sensitive or confidential information shared through School Council will be treated with discretion and will not be shared outside the appropriate context.
- **Address concerns directly.** When we have a concern or disagreement, we will bring it to the appropriate person or group and work toward resolution rather than discussing individuals or Council matters elsewhere.
- **Keep our communication constructive.** Whether we are speaking in a meeting, sending an email or communicating online, we will communicate in a way that reflects respect for our students, families, staff and one another.
- **Respect roles and responsibilities.** School Council, school administration and staff each have different roles. We will respect those roles while working collaboratively toward shared goals.
- **Disagree respectfully and move forward.** Agreement is not required for respectful collaboration. Once a decision has been made through the appropriate process, we will support the Council and continue working together.
- **Model the community we want for our children.** We will demonstrate the qualities we hope our students develop: being curious, caring, connected and resilient.

Our common ground is simple: we are here because we care about children and about Briar Hill School. We can have difficult conversations, hold different opinions and challenge ideas while still treating one another with dignity and respect.

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