

Balaclava School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 3rd, 2018 6pm

Meeting held 6:05PM to 8:30PM

Council Members in Attendance: Lisa Perosevic, Chrissy Ronalds, Cheryl Hue, Meagan Wilson, Cathy Pyper, Jenn Lukawecky, Tina Lillycrop, Marty Adams, Liz Pietrzak, Ellie Millard, Jacky Small

Others in Attendance: Vidya Dath, Penny Deathe, Ian Donen, Lindsay Wright, Jeff Kolbasnik, Shelly Stevenson, Sandi Richardson, Heather Pickles, Dan Chinnick Alex Noble, Angus Ronalds, Erin Cook, Kim Duggan, Heather Rickard, Lesly Paterson, Jay Bussink, Lisa Lavender, Joost Van der Mark, Kim Mummery, Ian Plummer, Christine Plummer, Chasta Bradley, Nancy Lenarduzzi, Sarah Kahn moui, Paige Hooper, Sue Dunlop, Samantha Forrest

Absent: Darren Ahing, Heinz Bondzio

Item #	Discussion	Name
1	Approval of Minutes	Liz Pietrzak
2	Business Arising from Previous Minutes	All
3	Principal's Report	Meagan Wilson
4	Chair's Report	Lisa Perosevic
5	Home and School Report	Not Discussed
6	New Business	All

Item 2: Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Pro Grant – Discussion of various topics including mental health and anxiety

- Penny Deathe mentioned that WDHS is presenting “Parenting of Screenagers” which is appropriate for all ages.
 - [She has offered to follow-up with School Council on the impact of the event.](#)
- Lisa suggested Ann Douglas who is presenting at her school. The presentation is called “Parenting in the Age of Anxiety”; Ann provides a positive look at supporting our children with mental health needs.
- Samantha Forrest noted that the Pro Grant does not have to be a speaker but can be an activity with parents involving their children.
- It was suggested that a seminar on Anxiety would be helpful in teaching how to have proactive, as opposed to reactive, discussions with children

[Decision](#) - individuals with topics and ideas can reach out to School Council through email who will then subsequently research feasibility of the topics

Optimist Club Donation – Brainstorm ideas of how this can best be utilized (\$200-500).

- Heinz Bondzio mentioned to Chrissy Ronalds that for the 2017/18 school year, the funding would go towards the music program
- Suggestion of outdoor equipment (skipping ropes, balls, etc.); this is currently covered by either the school budget or Home & School
- On behalf of Home & School, Samantha Forrest suggested funding assistance in support of building a/replacing the shed to house outdoor equipment. The intention is to have WDHS students build it with their teacher as part of one of their school credits. Completion would be end of the Spring.
 - [Samantha will send a brief description of the request to Lisa Perosevic who will then present to Heinz](#)

Item 3: Principal's Report

1. Meagan discussed the Move Education briefing and the success of the March talent show

2. A donation of \$250 from the Lion's Club was used towards special education tools and flexible seating in classrooms
3. Over the past few months, the work in the Junior and Intermediate washrooms has been complete. In upcoming months, the school is to undergo an exterior cleanup of the overgrown brush along the fences as well as the school is hoping to be able to widen the bus area parking
4. Coming up in April is Day of Pink (11th), Bobcat Day – Earth Day (20th) – a parent of an intermediate student has designed a map of the world that will be turned into a puzzle that the children can colour; it will be posted in the hallway once complete
5. Meagan will consider opportunities for central ordering of Pink shirts for next April, if offered through the board.
6. Madame Wright will be going on leave and backfilled by Monsieur Pollac
7. Kindergarten registration is open
8. The staff continues to focus on math as part of the School Improvement Plan

Item 4: Chair's Report

Rural Schools Advisory Committee meeting update

- It was proposed that each school gets \$10.05 per student.
- Balaclava would like to use this for bussing
- Parents request the school to ensure that all students can partake in this funding equally.

Item 6: New Business

Communication of Safety Concerns: Penny Deathe and Sue Dunlop were present to answer questions regarding school safety and how the community will be better informed if/when concerns arise.

- Sue Dunlop walked attendees through the 3 different school protocols that are used if/when incidents arise as well as the support offered to students who have engaged in a serious incident
- Sue Dunlop recognized that there could have been better and more efficient communication with the incident that occurred on March 7th. It was noted that parents were not officially informed until March 29th and the method was not in such a way that 100% of parents would have been reached:
 1. Synervoice calls all "home" numbers listed in the school database
 2. Balaclava School Website. Parents can subscribe to receive email notifications, but the website is available to all public.
- The School Board is in the process of developing an enhanced communication strategy
- The following concerns were raised by the attendees:
 1. Teachers should have adequate training on how to have crucial conversations within the classroom
 2. Should Social workers be more readily available to students. Meagan will return to council with an explanation of how Social Work Support works at Balaclava.
 3. There needs to be a formal communication to all families outlining the fact that an incident occurred at Balaclava; high level context of the incident should be given which includes assurance that the students are safe at school
 4. How are relevant incidents shared with the bus driver / bus company? What procedures are in place to ensure the safety of the students and bus driver while on the bus?
 5. Are there criteria for students participating in trips? Are grades and behavior considered? Are overnight trips treated different than day trips? (School Council cannot make recommendations on extra-curricular activities)
 6. It was noted that during breaks, the office helpers (middle-school students) are allowing entry of visitors into the school. As of April 4th, there are no longer student office helpers.

Communication: What can be done to improve communication at Balaclava between teachers and families? Jacky Small to share Google Classroom. Lisa Perosevic to share examples from within the Board of what is happening in other schools.

- [This topic will be further discussed at the next School Council Meeting. Discussion should include what is the responsibility of the student versus the teacher to communicate](#)