

Balaclava School Council Meeting Agenda

Date: October 2nd, 2018 6pm

Meeting held: 6:02 – 7:46

Council Members in Attendance: Cheryl Hue, Liz Pietrzak, Lisa Perosevic, Sarah Fujimoto, Joanne Fulsom, Cathy Pyper, Jeff Lillycrop, Jennifer Lukawecky, Heinz Bondzio, Meagan Wilson, Chrissy Ronalds, Kim Duggan, Geri Hall, Rebecca Newcombe, Erin Cook, Gosha Sheppard, Ellie Millard, Lasha Newcombe

Item #	Discussion	Name
1	Approval of Minutes	Chrissy Ronalds
2	Business Arising from Previous Minutes	All
3	Principal's Report	Meagan Wilson
4	Chair's Report	Lisa Perosevic
5	Home and School Report	Chrissy Ronalds/Ellie Millard
6	New Business	All

Item 2: Business Arising from Previous Minutes

1. *Review of Pro Grant application and ideas submitted to School Council*
 - Pro Grant was submitted in May 2018. School Council should be receiving a response from the Ministry of Education within the next month indicating if the grant was approved
 - Ellie Millard, on behalf of Home & School (H&S) requested School Council to consider using the grant, if approved, to purchase one or two math kits for Balaclava to host multiple "Math Nights" throughout the year. H&S is hoping to collaborate with another school to each purchase one kit and share them.
 - Attendees agreed that "Math Nights" would be in line with the topics/barriers noted in the Pro Grant Application

Item 3: Principal's Report

1. *Balaclava Staffing – enrollments and change in resourcing*
 - Due to lower enrolments, Balaclava has lost a dedicated music teacher as well as 1.6 full time grade teachers
 - The schoolboard altered their support models and because of this Balaclava has also lost a literacy resource
 - No reorganization of teachers required this year
2. *Facilities upgrades*
 - *Widening of parking lot:* Balaclava is continuing to push this agenda item for approval
 - *Electronic Message Board:* Install set for Oct. 9th; also having flag pole moved to go beside the sign

- *Shed*: Working to get this finished given the longer the delays, the greater the risk of unwanted 'pests'
 - *Water*: Balaclava water is tested each morning. If testing is not completed prior to the commencement of the school day or if the water levels are not in line with standards (possibly due to an error in testing), the water fountains are closed, and the students have access to bottled waters
 - *Yardwork*: cleanups have been done recently, but given the weather, overgrowth is occurring faster than can be cleared
3. *New Items of Importance*
- Terry Fox Run – Apple Orchard donated all apples
 - Lunch Days have started
 - Food drive was very successful; Balaclava students did a great job at sorting
 - During the PA Day, staff looked over EQAO data to look at this year's targets, setting plans and how they can be implemented
 - October 4th is picture day
 - Thanksgiving luncheon is October 5th and it will be funded by the school and supported by the Lunch Lady
 - **Action: reminder to subscribe to website because no longer doing the monthly newsletter**
 - Progress reports will be sent home on October 30th
 - EQAO – reports will go home by October 5th.
 - i. Meagan walked the council members in attendance through the 2017-18 scores. Staff will be looking for trends in raw data to determine which specific areas require improvement
 - Humber College is offering a 3-hour workshop to help parents become better math teachers/tutors to their children

Item 4: Chair's Report

1. *Review/Revise Balaclava School Council Bylaws*
 - **Attendees agreed that no changes are required at this time except for ensuring the School Council executive consists of the required positions**
 - Need to ensure that H&S is in attendance as they are voting members

Item 5: H&S Report

1. *Feedback of Screenagers presented on September 20th*
2. *Upcoming events*
 - a. Fall feast in Oct 26th. **Watch Facebook for more info**
 - b. Black Tie Bingo – end of Jan/beginning of Feb
 - c. Reopened "Cheddar Up" for those parents that may have missed the deadline
 - d. Next H&S meetings are Oct 22 (morning) and Oct 23 (evening) – same agenda for both
 - e. H&S will be going to evenings-only meetings after Oct 22

Item 6: New Business

1. *Partnership with/support from Carlisle Optimist club donations*
 - All money that the optimist brings in goes to youth including bursaries
 - Will donate to the music program again this year
 - Would like to have the school's participation in the Santa Claus parade again this year
 - **Action: Let Heinz know by Jan in terms of what the school is asking for and how much**
2. *Communication tools at Balaclava between teachers, parents and students*
 - **Reserve for next School Council meeting**

3. *Ward 15 Townhall October 3rd*

- Have requested Penny to put paid supervision during nutrition breaks on her agenda.

Rationale:

- Given staffing changes and given that teachers have 80 duty minutes a week as per their collective agreement, there are not enough resources to have two teachers supervising on each of the playgrounds simultaneously. The result is that all Balaclava students have their nutrition breaks on one playground.
 - There are currently three teachers and at least one EA supervising 300 students.
 - Attendees asked if parents with their vulnerable sector could volunteer; feedback from staff is that they are able to monitor the area without further assistance.
- Liz has had a conversation with Penny and Sue about the removal of a dedicated music resource at Balaclava. The rationale for this is as follows: French and Special Education must have proper education to teach these subjects, but Music does not require this and can be surplus.
 - Penny and Sue are both willing to attend a School Council meeting to discuss the two above concerns
4. *Brainstorm ways to enhance the Balaclava Community (eg. Giving back activities, Movie Nights, more clubs, School Council/H&S partnering, etc)*
- Ask of attendees to come back with ideas as to how we can enhance Balaclava
5. *Hamilton Schools Adventure Running Challenge*
- Chrissy will bring to next meeting – Cheryl to reach out to Laura to ask if will attend the next meeting to discuss
6. *Nan Dodman garden out front is in disrepair and needs attention given*
- Lasha and Geri have volunteered to support this initiative
 - Ms. Wilson has asked the teachers, and there is no interest/capacity
7. *Next meeting will be held Nov 6th in the library.*
8. *Lisa Perosevic and Cheryl Hue were nominated by the attendees to Chair the School Council. Secretary position remains vacant. Lisa/Cheryl will email School Council members seeking a nomination for Secretary*