

Balaclava School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 9, 2021 11:00am

Item #	Discussion	Name
1	Approval of Minutes – December 1, 2020	Cheryl Hue/Erin Meanchoff
2	School Report	Kelly Rizzo
3	Chair’s Report	Cheryl Hue/Erin Meanchoff
4	Home and School Report	Samantha Forrest
5	New Business	All

Item 2: School Report

Cognitive:

The staffing process is underway and is based on projected enrollment for September 2021 and is how the school is staffed appropriately. Staffing can go up or down after the projections. As for Kdgn registration, we try to predict the enrollment for Kdgn by looking at trends but this can be a grey area. Currently have 13 new registrations for next year.

- Report cards (paper copy) to go out with IEPs (where relevant) on Feb 19th, 2021
- February is Black History Month – Student Council will be sharing a short biography of remarkable Black Canadians each morning during announcements
- HWDSB: Human Rights/Equity Priorities – Learn Disrupt Rebuild is a series of lessons developed at the Board level, kdgn – Gr. 12; focus mental health and well-being, raising awareness of implicit bias/oppressive practices, identity; allyship etc.
- Module 1 of Emotion Coaching: staff learning how to increase our knowledge and understanding of how our brains process emotion; so we can co-regulate a student who is feeling dysregulated. We begin by validating their feelings rather than trying to “solve” their problems and in doing so, help the student feel heard and help them get back “online” and ready to learn

Environment:

- We are trying something new at nutrition break, the zones have been changed to include the natural features of the playground, no mixing of cohorts
- Blacktop access is rotated so all students have a chance to play painted games on the blacktop
- New chairs for some classrooms have been purchased gradually replacing the older mismatched chairs
- Some touch up painting has been done during remote learning; would like all classrooms to be painted, hopefully during March break
- Finished Dec lock-down drill, another one to be done

Community:

- During provincial school shut down, following the Winter holidays, we met with Student Council PM and Deputy PM virtually to discuss the return to in person learning; we decided upon a theme of kindness leading up to Valentine’s Day for some school spirit. During the week we encouraged different ideas for being kind, such as giving compliments, helping out

someone, holding the door open, etc. we finished the week up with a kindness bulletin board in the main hall to remind us that kindness should be practiced every day
December events by Student Council included spirit days such as festive colour day, Who-hair day, and reminders to donate to the Flamborough Food bank because need is greater than ever. The food bank raised \$17K which was matched.

Balaclava: Mission/Vision/Motto/Commitments:

- We began by asking what was important to us and then formed questions to ask what each topic would look like, sound like and feel like if fully implemented. We gathered input from students, staff and parents/caregivers using Thought Exchange platform.
- Once collected we looked for trends or themes that emerged from all three stakeholder groups
 - Mission: What is Balaclava about/why do we exist?
 - Vision: What are we working towards?
 - Motto: What can we say every day?
- A draft was shared of the vision and mission of Balaclava as well as the Commitments the school will make to action our mission and work toward our vision.
- Question: how are teachers accountable to this in the classroom? Answer: it becomes part of the school improvement plan, no real way to “measure” but use input from staff, students and community on an ongoing ‘anecdotal basis’ to monitor, job of Principal to be sure that these ideas are implemented
- It is a process, not a finish line. It will change as needed – should be reviewed and updated every 3 years.
- It is kind of like “success criteria” for kids, but instead, it is for all of us
- Perhaps more detail is needed for each section, include examples, who each section is directed at, what is each person’s role: staff, students, parents
- Goal is to have it completed to start the new school year
- It was decided that we would circulate a revised version to all School Council members for feedback and input.

Item 3: Chair’s Report

Rural Schools Meeting:

- Balaclava being on a well, it is tested daily to ensure students/staff are safe
- Bus driver shortage has improved since September; bell times as is (as of Feb 9th)
- Funding: Balaclava has \$4 000 to improve different programs – talk of putting the money towards fixing the climber

Item 4: H&S Report

- Not much to report as there is no fundraising being done
- Would like to have a second gaga ball pit; perhaps in the spring, new shed in the spring
- Virtual fundraising? No direction from the Board at this point
- Chris Vellum Screening: have tabled this for the moment as online virtual sessions haven’t had much success in the past
- Grade 8 grad on the radar, something to start to plan for but here is no direction at this point
- Grade 8 grad photos will be rescheduled

Item 5: New Business

- School and grad pictures will be rescheduled.
- Teaching/Learning from home during lockdown: if we have to go back into lockdown, how will split classes be taught? This proved difficult for some students.

- There are now breakout rooms that the teachers can utilize when they have a split class. This will help with the confusion between the grades re tasks and lessons.
- Next School Council Meeting Date April 13th 6PM (it was later moved to April 20th @ 6pm due to April Break)