



Meeting Minutes
Balaclava School Council
October 5, 2021 @ 6pm - MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Item #	Discussion	Name
1	Welcome	Erin Meanchoff/Hannah Wright
2	School Council Nominations	Erin Meanchoff/Hannah Wright
3	School Report	Kelly Rizzo
4	Home and School Presentation	Ellie Millard
5	New Business	All

Meeting Commenced: 6:03 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:31 p.m.

Attendance

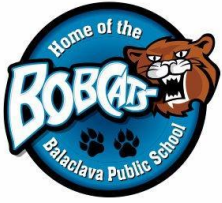
Kelly Rizzo, Lesley Ardron, Erin Bell, Erin Meanchoff, Cheryl Hue, Hannah Wright, Katie Bennett, Ellie Millard, Jacky Small, Jodie Tattoni, Lasha Newcombe, Erin Cook, and Heather Rickard, Sarah Zinke, Yarina Banerjee, Seema Narasimhan

Item 1: Welcome

1. Welcome & virtual meeting best practices
2. Land Acknowledgement – read by Kelly Rizzo
3. Introductions & attendance
4. Review & approval of minutes
 - a. Approve Ellie Millard
 - b. Second Erin Bell
5. Introduction to School Council
 - a. Forum to discuss ways to improve student achievement, make recommendations to the school. Also, a great communication tool between the school and community

Item 2: School Council Nominations

- Co-Chairs – Erin Meanchoff & Hannah Wright
- Teacher representative – Lesley Ardron
- Home & School representative – Ellie Millard
- Secretary – Cheryl Hue
- Voting members – discuss nominations for voting members
 - a. Kelly reviewed the nominations received through the parent portal forms
 - i. Yarina, Missy, Seema, Erin Bell
 - ii. Ellie, Jacky, Heather and Sarah self-nomination during the meeting
 - iii. Teacher rep is also a voting member – Lesley Ardron
 - b. Voting members represent the greater community of parents and caregivers. When the school is looking for feedback, Kelly will seek the feedback and input from the



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voting members. When the voting members of the community have input, they can raise to the council members and the school to put forward a motion for voting

- c. Half of the voting members +1 (minimum 5) creates a quorum which is required to pass motion to move forward. Cannot vote without quorum.
- Rural Schools Representative – Hannah Wright

Item 3: School Report

1. Cognitive/Environment/Community – debrief of the categories
 - a. Cognitive
 - i. This year the board has recognized that being remote and coming back to in-person learning can pose some social/emotional challenges for both teachers and students. The board has developed various lessons (“Reimagining Wellness” – physical activation, community building and ?) across all age groups. This will be rolled out intensively throughout the first 6 weeks of the school year and then to a lesser extent for the remainder of the year.
 - ii. On the first day of school *PD Day for students* – Kelly asked staff what their hopes were for the year and subsequently asked the staff to ask their students the same question on their first day of school. This was an opportunity to understand what the priority is for the students. Common themes were collected and put on a board in the school and on the webpage. It differentiated between what were the hopes of the teachers and of the students. This was further used, for teachers to dig into the underlying reasons for the hopes and to try and create activities to fulfill them.
 - iii. Reconciliation of staffing has occurred based on student enrolments vs. those that are physically present at school. In June 2021, the board allocated an incremental 6/7 class. (now have 15 classes – 301 students) In September, we were given a third kindergarten class. Both were staffed with long term occasional teachers. Also received 2 x 0.2 prep teachers who are also long term occasional. LTO = not permanent. Upon reconciliation, the numbers were aligned and the staff for LTOs can now be filled with permanent (2 x Full time and 1 x 0.4 part time)
* Erin Bell asked if school council can support the school with more accurate enrollments – Ask is to raise awareness to Kelly but also that we ask the community to register their students for Balaclava as early as possible to avoid any negative impact due to reconciliation.
 - iv. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – expectation is that the school will continue to learn every day and throughout all years in attendance at the school in order to become more aware of our history and create a more inclusive future.
2. Environment
 - a. HVAC – removing units from classrooms whose units are original with the construction of the school. Replacing them with standalone units with increased air purification. Estimation is that the work will be done by December. When work is being done in a classroom, the students relocate to a vacant classroom.



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- b. Playground Equipment – able to use this year unlike last year due to Covid and the no-interaction policy. Equipment is now used on a rotating basis among the classrooms.
 - c. *Question raised about the water filtration system as it appears to have a 'unique' taste. No new filtration system but there is a water-fill station. **Kelly is going to investigate if it has a different taste to it.**
 - d. *Question re ATV tracks through the back fields. Kelly has not seen tracks of recent.
 - e. *Question raised around drop-off/pick-up and if the congestion has been resolved. Kelly believes it has been addressed to the extent possible although **will be sending another reminder of the protocols in place**
3. Community
- a. Intermural Sports are allowed but limited
 - i. Baseball happened at beginning of the year
 - ii. Cross country for grades 6-8. *Question raised as to why it isn't Grade 3-8. The board has mentioned that if it can be done as an inter-school activity then this is preferable (eg grades 3-5). **Balaclava will potential consider this for younger grades**
 - iii. No swimming
 - iv. Ask is to not have spectators. ***It was asked if the games/meets can be watched virtually – Kelly will investigate this.**
 - b. Terry Fox Run was over a series of days in order to keep cohorts separate. Donations were made online this year.
 - c. School Webpage – updates are being done weekly. Continue to promote parents/caregivers to sign up to the webpage in order to get updates as they are posted. Will also get back to posting morning announcements.
 - d. Have had an influx of parents dropping off items forgotten at home. Trying to keep this at a minimum, but do ask if it is absolutely necessary then to have it labelled
 - e. As a staff – exploring the idea of having a virtual meet-the-teacher event.
 - f. School pictures were cancelled for September with the hope to reschedule to when is allowable

Item 4: Home & School

- 1.** Introduction to H&S presentation
 - a.** Erin Cook provided an update on the yearbook. It was a very successful year last year. There are 9 yearbooks left.
 - b. Samantha Forrest – President, Heather Rickard – Communications, Ellie Millard – Treasurer, Leslie Patterson – Secretary
 - c. Home and School requires a separate media consent form – will be sending out a welcome package by mail along with this form
 - d. Gaga Ball Pits are now complete
 - e. **Home and School has a presentation for School Council members and will share this via email**

Item 5: New Business

- 1. Next School Council meeting date
 - a. Decided the evening might be better for all
 - b. Next meeting December 7th 6pm



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Meeting Adjournment

Motioned Ellie Millard

Seconded Erin Bell