



Meeting Agenda
Balaclava School Council
December 7, 2021 @ 6pm - MS Teams Virtual Meeting

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

Meeting Commenced: 6:04pm

Attendance

Kelly Rizzo, Lesley Ardron, Erin Bell, Erin Meanchoff, Cheryl Hue, Jacky Small, Paula Hrycenko, Laurie Millar

Item 1: Welcome

- Welcome & virtual meeting best practices
- Land Acknowledgement recited by Kelly Rizzo
- Attendance
- Review & approval of minutes from October 5, 2021
 Motioned by Lesley Ardron and Seconded by Cheryl Hue
- Review of actions from previous meeting:
 - a. Kelly to follow-up on the taste of water – thinks it was a onetime occurrence where the chlorine levels were off
 - b. Kelly to follow-up on whether intramural sports can be watched virtually – have not been able to find a way to make this possible

Item 2: School Council Update

- Carlisle Optimist Club Introduction with Laurie Millar
 - Have been in Carlisle since 1958.
 - Now have 5 women members.
 - Motto is helping children and youth in the community.
 - Examples of activities/community initiatives include the skating program, they built the arena, built pavilions in various parks, Christmas in Carlisle/tree lighting, duck dash (all money raised goes back to the community)
 - If the school has an event/activity that would like support from financially, present it to the Optimist Club, who will then take it to the board and subsequently membership for approval.
 - Balaclava has reached out to the optimist club for potential support of the accessibility pathway on the East playground at Balaclava
 - Erin Bell raised question to Laurie about support in helping update the parks around Carlisle. The city has no record of parks in Carlisle (aside from Palomino) let alone maintains/updates them. Kelly is going to connect Erin with an individual with experience who was able to have the city pay for upgrades to a park.
 - Laurie has requested that Balaclava help support communicating community events and Kelly has agreed to do so
- PRO Grant application
 Will reach out to the membership to determine if there is a topic of interest that we could use funds for this year.



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Item 2: School Report

Cognitive/Environment/Community

Cognitive:

- Progress reports went out on Nov 19. Term 1 reports will go out in Feb
- Staffing: Mdme Wright is currently on leave – was able to find two teachers who are able to share the responsibilities (Mlle Crockett .6/Mlle McFadden .4)
- New Kindergarten and new Grade 7 classes were added in the spring/fall. These positions were filled with Long Term Occasional Teachers until the board determined if enrolments were high enough to keep these classes permanently. Upon approval to keep the classes, the two current teachers interviewed and were successful in obtaining these positions in a permanent capacity.
- BalACLAVA has also hired for their prep time – Mr. Du is taking on instrumental and Mlle Crockett is taking on the 0.2 FTE and able to support Mdme Wright's leave (.6 FTE)
- Mr. Du has already sent instruments to be fixed as well as ordered new materials to support programming (e.g., stands, reeds, music books etc.) Requested funding to help with startup and received approximately \$2500 from the Board. Ongoing maintenance/repair costs will be supported through rural schools funding this year.
- Some info was sent home to Year 2 Kindergarten parents with respect to French Immersion Programming applications (all online)
- In November, the process was started to identify any gifted student in Grade 4. This is a yearlong process that begins with the administration of a screening measure (CCAT)
- A few teachers have expressed interest in partnering with another school (Greenville) to learn about Knowledge Building Principles. Kelly has offered to have some of these teachers come to a Council meeting and share their learnings and experiences if there is interest.

Environment:

- Improvements to HVAC systems are almost complete except for a few thermostats that are integral to get them up and running, some materials were backordered
- Over winter break, the remainder of the work on the hall floors will be completed
- Aiming to get some classrooms repainted over the March Break
- Over summer holidays, will be getting all new windows and doors – likely silver frames and grey or black doors
- Have completed more grounds cleanup (trimming trees and bushes)
- Focus for fall term has been on inclusion and acceptance – trying to build connections among students and staff
- Recently had anti-bullying week where 3 lessons were taught across the HWDSB to increase understanding about bullying and it's impacts. Will continue to learn new skills throughout the year
- Lockdown drill will be week of Dec 13th. It will be announced to the school day of.

Community

- School Council – approx. 25 students that are very involved and highly engaged
 - o Had a fun Halloween Event
 - o Had a antibullying events including Rainbow day for inclusivity of all and uplifting notes to one another (pictures will be emailed for the yearbook)
 - o 4 spirit events planned for the holiday season (pattern day, holiday hair day, holiday colour day and cozy pajama day)
 - o Have asked students to support the Giving Tree by donating gift cards to grocery stores (No Frills, Walmart, Food Basics). These will be given to families in need of extra support across the HWDSB
- Student Senate – student trustees in Grade 11 are looking to have more students support the senate. Looking for two students in grade 7 or 8 to support the trustees and attend the bi-weekly senate meetings. There are two students at BalACLAVA who have expressed interest.



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- School Photo Retake and Grad Photo date is Jan. 20th
- Holiday Celebrations remain in classroom-only
- Volleyball season has finished, and basketball is beginning
- Rapid Antigen tests will be sent home with every child on December 14th. It is not required to be completed for students to be able to return.

Item 3: Home & School Update

- Introduction to H&S presentation
 - a. Next meeting will be Jan 12th
 - b. Reminding families to complete the social media consent forms – H&S is a separate regulated body, and a separate consent form is required above and beyond what parents signed for the school
 - c. Yearbook committee lead is Erin Cook – seeking volunteer support for all facets of the yearbook (balACLAVAYEARBOOKCOMMITTEE@gmail.com)
 - d. Lunch days and tuck shop are still paused

Item 4: New Business

- Vision for the Learning Commons - Mrs. Hrycenko
 - The Learning Commons is not just for reading, but is for collaboration, STEM/STEAM (note the A is for Arts) projects, etc.
 - Goal is to move to a more open, collaborative, flexible space within 1-2 years
 - Looking to have more diversity in selection of books (using QR codes for book requests)
 - Going to do some fundraisers in the spring
 - Suggestion for funding was to reach out to the Optimist Club
 - Ms. Hrycenko is going to email the slide deck so that Council can share with members
- Gifts for teachers
 - This can be done as has been done in past pre-Covid years
- Next School Council meeting date – will be virtual for the year unless something changes

Next date will be Feb 8th 6PM

Meeting Adjournment: 7:29pm

Erin Bell motioned, and Lesley Ardron seconded