



Meeting Agenda
Balaclava School Council
April 12th, 2022 @ 6pm - MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Item #	Discussion	Name
1	Welcome	Erin Meanchoff/Hannah Wright
2	Learning Commons Presentation	Kelly Rizzo & Mrs. Hrycenko
3	Home and School Meeting	Ellie Millard & Samantha Forrest
4	School Council Update	Erin Meanchoff & Hannah Wright
5	School Report	Kelly Rizzo & Mrs. Ardron
6	New Business	All

Meeting Commenced: 6:00pm

Attendance

Hannah Wright, Kelly Rizzo, Lesley Ardron, Erin Meanchoff, Erin Bell, Jacky Small, Ellie Millard, Heather Rickard, Sarah F., Jennifer Lowe, Julia Edwards, Sarah Zinke, Samantha Forrest, Lasha Hukezalie

Item 1: Welcome

- Welcome & virtual meeting best practices
- Land Acknowledgement
- Attendance
- Review & approval of minutes from February 8th, 2021
 - Motioned by Ellie Millard and seconded by Erin Bell

Item 2: Learning Commons Presentation

- Total budget: \$22k wish list multi-year project, prioritized amount is \$10-12k
- Funding opportunities: Big Box of Cards, Scholastic Fair – Main target is improving diversity in book selection
- School budget is supporting iPads, robots, shelving installation and electrical changes go through maintenance
- Possibilities of funding received from the Optimist Club – positive feedback, still waiting to hear back as they get feedback from their members
- Fundraising idea: flip-give app
- The board is supporting the idea of the learning commons but is not providing funding
- Library time in the past was specifically for primary educators to get preparation time. The notion that older students in the building benefit from the space is a new idea but is at the heart of this
- Students can use the space as long as there is a teacher present.

Item 3: Home & School

- Ellie and Samantha
- Approval of minutes – Erin Bell and Ellie Millard
- Food days
 - First pizza day was today!

- Special food dates April & May and potentially in June (pasta)
- Plan for September is to look at full offering
- Question as to why additional options weren't offered like Booster Juice and subs
 - Food days have been considered from an equity perspective. Specifically, whether some families are unable to afford the more expensive options. The school decided to start with pizza days because it is less expensive and is easier for it to be subsidized.
 - It was suggested to do a survey including food options, cost, etc.
- Question about whether Balaclava offers a nutrition program
 - A few years ago, Balaclava looked into the program. At that time, the school did not come close to qualifying.
 - Small fund accessed through Hamilton Foundation combined with donation from Lions Club for funds to purchase for small items available in the office that students can take.
 - If someone wants to make a donation, please contact the school.
- Fun Fair
 - Join the school Open House
 - May 26th 4:30pm-8:00pm
 - Toonie bag collection - April 19th – 25th
 - Trinkets, candy, no chocolate – kids buy these for a Toonie
 - 300-500 bags have been sold in the past
 - Silent auction – classroom themed baskets, donations from families based on the theme – May 2nd – 13th
 - BBQ and games for kids, games are run by grade 9 volunteers
 - Strabane and Carlisle Optimist club hopefully to support the BBQ
 - Looking for two leads to run the silent auction and toonie bags
- Looking for volunteers
 - Vulnerable sector screening will not be required for Fun Fair/Food Days (Declaration is sufficient for these) due to lack of time but will be required for September
- Finances
 - No activity since December other than paying memberships
 - \$13,000 in bank account – mostly earmarked for playground to repair equipment
- AGM
 - May 11th
 - Nominate new executive, a number of members are leaving including Samantha and Ellie
 - In order for a Home & School to continue 3 roles need to be filled (President, Secretary, Treasurer). Samantha will hold the role as Past President
 - Roles can be split and shared
 - Future fundraising direction
- Yearbook and Food Days – people can still donate, might consider reopening special offerings
- Question about whether there was any support for Grad from H&S
 - Funding is provided but Grad is teacher driven with support from Grade 7 parents

Item 4: School Council Update

- PRO Grant – we will need to look at this next year since it would need to be spent this year
- Principal Placement Survey - feedback to be requested via email from School Council

Item 5: School Report

- Cognitive
 - EQAO is supposed to go ahead May 4th – June 24th all online
 - Remote students are not doing EQAO
 - Currently waiting on PD for staff to support the online process
 - Storytime Trail is being picked up this week. Placards will be set up in the grass that create a big book the students read as they walk around the playground.
- Environment

- Staffing – 15 classes again for next year, using a homeroom model again: goal is for students to be with the same educator for half the day at a minimum.
- Class lists will be starting to be put together in May. The school is open to suggestions as to the type of learning environment, as well as particular peer relationships that were challenging or positive, Ms. Rizzo will be accepting suggestions in writing until the end of May.
- Hamilton Philharmonic is offering a virtual concert, window is between May 29th – June 6th
- Kindergarten orientation window is May 9th- May 22nd, partly virtual and there may be an opportunity for in-person (date to be confirmed)
- Gauss Math – competition held by University of Waterloo, 22 Grade 7 & 8 students are signed up
- Grade 7+8 trip – there will not be an overnight trip but possibly two-day trips
- Question about Halton eliminating teacher librarians, will this be something Hamilton follows? No, the school is allocated a library position based on primary classes.
- Bike Safety Program is coming up early June
- Primary zone on the playground is working, all students need to be reminded to stay out of tall grass
- Community
 - Culturally relevant and responsible pedagogy (CRRP) was a focus of March 4th PD for staff
 - Balaclava took part in celebrating the Lunar New Year in February with decorations and informative announcements
 - The school was involved in World Water Day
 - Extracurriculars are expanding
 - Possible Grade 8 badminton tournament
 - Track and Field and soccer are beginning in June
 - Hoping to implement a living wall in the school and Kdgn and Grade 7s are collaborating to plant and tend to the garden. Connecting with the Flamborough Food Bank to see if they can use anything from the garden
 - Grade 7+8 book club is ongoing
 - During Ramadan the school is collecting food for food bank in response to a student suggestion
 - Big Box of Cards fundraiser – funds for the Learning Commons, updating book collection with greater diversity is the focus
 - Grad is June 21st and in-person
 - Photo retakes and grad photos were done on April 6th but there were no team photos – will need to do these ourselves
 - 12 students have volunteered to help with the yearbook

Item 6: New Business

- Next School Council meeting date – June 7th
 - Optimistic to be done outside
 - Discuss appointing Co-Chairs for next year

Meeting Adjournment

- 7:43pm