



Meeting Agenda
Balaclava School Council
June 7th, 2022 @ 6pm - MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Item #	Discussion	Name
1	Welcome	Erin Meanchoff/Hannah Wright
2	Chair/Secretary Position Vote	Erin Meanchoff/Hannah Wright
3	School Council Update	Erin Meanchoff/Hannah Wright
4	School Report	Kelly Rizzo & Mrs. Ardron
5	New Business	All

Meeting Commenced: 6:04pm

Attendance

Hannah Wright, Kelly Rizzo, Lesley Ardron, Erin Meanchoff, Erin Bell, Jacky Small, Ellie Millard, Lasha Hukezalie, Seema

Item 1: Welcome

- Welcome & virtual meeting best practices
- Land Acknowledgement
- Attendance
- Review & approval of minutes from April 12th, 2022
 - Motioned by Erin Bell and Jacky Small

Item 2 + 3: Chair and Secretary Vote and School Council Update

- **The Co-Chair, a voting member**, runs the School Council meetings, creates agendas in conjunction with our Principal, attends other board meetings as required (e.g. Rural Schools) and reports back to council members. If something needs to be escalated, the Chairs will be the face of the communication to board members, trustees, and the community. The Chairs also try and support Home and School as much as possible. It is an excellent role because of the relationship you have with the Principal and the inside scoop you get on the school and board developments. In terms of time commitment, it is about 2-3 hours every two months unless there are specific items to be dealt with which is somewhat rare but can happen (Pro-Grant for example).
- **The Secretary** is also a voting member of School Council. The responsibilities are to capture the minutes during meetings and support drafting the agenda, and sending out the emails to council members as required.
- Erin Meanchoff will be stepping down next year, Hannah Wright will be staying on as Co-Chair and Cheryl Hue will stay on as secretary
- Erin Meanchoff nominated Erin Bell, Erin declined this year but might be interested in following years
- Meeting Format
 - Question – Does it need to be at 6:00pm? This was more relevant when the meetings were held at the school
 - Question - Can the meeting be held off site, in-person? Has been done before, we would need to check the rule book to confirm

- Question - Can we hold meetings in a hybrid format in-person with a virtual meeting? This is a good option for the 2022/23 school year.
- Meetings cannot be recorded

Item 4: School Report

- Cognitive
 - EQAO has started, Grade 3 + Grade 6 have written assessments within their regular schedule
 - Testing has been done online. Some minor glitches technically but overall has been smooth.
 - First year of a new format – Completed in smaller blocks, delivery and presentation is more in-line with what kids are comfortable with. It's also much more convenient to complete work if a student has been away. Tests can be read to them on the iPad. Kids are receiving it well.
 - Will finish on Friday, June 10th.
 - PA Day – A day focused on assessment, evaluation, and reporting. Report cards will go home on June 24th. There is a paper shortage so hopefully there is a sufficient supply to send it home with a hardcopy.
 - Next year's class will be noted on the report card.
 - On the last day of school students will have the opportunity to visit with the class they will be in the following year.
 - Graduation/Commencement - Board has asked to shift the language from graduation to commencement. This is to be more inclusive to students who are not graduating but are taking part in the ceremony.
 - Commencement date is June 21st @ 6:30pm
 - We are expecting lawn signs again this year for graduates.
 - Tickets will be given to students and their families. Everyone will be able to bring 4 guests. If anyone needs more than 4 guests, they will be able to request additional tickets.
- Environment
 - New windows and doors are set to be installed in July and should be finished before the school reopens in the fall
 - We are also getting a new gym floor. The current floor is a hard tile surface and will be replaced with a proper cushioned floor for sport.
 - Learning Commons makeover is well underway. Shelving is coming to add more open space. Carlisle Optimist Club has agreed to donate \$2500 which will cover about half the cost of the shelving. Soft seating and carpet will be coming next.
 - Question - How optimistic are we to get more funding from other sources? For this year, the \$2500 plus funds from the school meets our needs. Next year we have additional items to bring in which would cost more. The total project amount is approximately \$20,000. We have spent about \$12,000.
 - We are gradually retiring old furniture. This past year approximately a classroom worth of new desks and chairs were purchased to replace the aging ones. The new desks are adjustable which makes them more flexible to the school's needs
 - Living wall project – still working on the fundraising aspect, the wall will be installed in the main area outside of the staff room. It costs approximately \$3700. The goal is to have the funds installed by September.
 - Question - What happens to the plants in the summer? The fixture itself is self-sustaining as long as it is plugged in and has water in the base.
- Community
 - May 26 – Fun Fair + Book Fair which raised \$1800
 - Storytime Trail (outdoor book walk). Next story will be up in September.
 - Sold sunflower seeds for Red Cross
 - Frozen yogurt sale for living wall
 - Track and Field was rescheduled to Thursday
 - Balaclava finished 2nd in their division for the soccer tournament
 - African Lion Safari for Kindergarten and primary classes

- Grade 7 + 8 are going to Toronto (Market and Blue Jays Game)
- Junior and Intermediate classes saw Annie
 - Question - How is it decided which classes got to go to Annie? Individual educators made the decision based whether they felt that they could make a connection to their lesson planning
- Jump Rope for Heart – June 17th for Primary Students, all can donate – skipping will focus on Primary classes
- Bike week - June 13th – 16th – Bicycle education program – for Grade 4,5,6 – This is run by a third-party.
- June 23rd – School-wide playday – all kids will be put on teams, mixed grades and they will rotate through fun stations
- June is Pride month and Indigenous Heritage month. There are a few activities planned including a Rainbow Day.
- Small team at Balaclava has been working on collecting data from students for the Human Rights Friendly School. One observation is a difference between primary, junior and intermediate students on their ability and comfort to share their ideas and not be judged. This is a great place to start working to improve.
- Mrs. Cassidy's floor used to be a computer lab so there are some holes from that use. It is on the radar but is not a high priority right now.
- Question about the intermediate boys washroom being closed. It was closed when the power was off and if it needs to be cleaned. There has been some vandalism in the boy's washroom and sometimes it needs to be closed to be fixed. There has been a complaint about the urinals not flushing properly. Washrooms are a priority, they have to be cleaned nightly.
- Question - How does the school and the educators deal with tragic events? Resources are given to staff on what things to look for, safe things to say. Educators do the best they can and respect sensitivities. If there were a child or children that are struggling with anything the school will work with the parents to support that child. Social work support may be accessed also.
- Question - How was the church incident handled? If there is a threat to any school, the school is contacted by police. For the church incident the school was not contacted, meaning it did not relate to the school. Kelly did call the Police to confirm there was no threat to the school.
- In terms of responding to recent threats and concerns after the tragic event in Texas, the board will work with experts. They have provided an open letter addressing the events and providing resources.
- Question - What kind of training are teachers receiving? Lockdown drills are completed, safe schools training is conducted in the fall.
- For extra resources, there is a mental health and well-being area on the HWDSB website to access resources

Item 5: New Business

- Kelly Rizzo is retiring at the end of the month. Kelly will announce it to the kids on Thursday.

Item 6: H & S Report

- Fun Fair - Huge event was put on in a very short time. Feedback was that the event was very well organized. It is estimated that H & S raised \$7200. In a regular year, H & S raises 8-10k.
- June food days – June 8 is pasta day, June 14th is pizza day and June 17th is hot dog day
- The H & S executive team will be changing next year. There will be a questionnaire going out on lunches and use of fun fair money.
- Question - Has anyone been nominated for the executive roles? There are 6 people interested in roles. No one is confirmed.
- Repair work on existing climbing structures is underway, broken barriers have been removed. Grading and sodding is to come.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:31pm