



## Meeting Agenda Balaclava School Council November 29th, 2022 @ 6pm

Item #	Discussion	Name
1	Welcome	John Gris/Hannah Wright
2	School Report	John Gris
3	School Council Update	Hannah Wright
4	Home & School Update	TBD
5	New Business	All

### Meeting Commenced: 6:00pm

#### Attendance:

- Hannah Wright, Jacky Small, Laura Harris, John Gris, Jen Lukawecky, Erin Bell, Yarina Bannerjee, Geri Hall, Ellie Millard, Sarah Zinke, Lasha Newcombe

#### Item 1: Welcome

- Welcome & virtual meeting best practices
- Land Acknowledgement
- Attendance
- Review & approval of minutes from September 20th, 2022
  - Motioned by Erin Bell, Sarah Zinke

#### Item 2: School Report

- **Student Council**
  - Met to discuss December initiatives, working with the Inclusion & Diversity policy
  - Some ideas are a mitten and/or a food drive to give back to the community, spirit days Dec 19-23rd, pajama day on Dec 23rd
  - Living wall project from last year, interested in doing a grow tower instead. Will be something to talk to the incoming Principal
  - Coat drive happened a couple of weeks ago, there was also a food drive a few weeks ago.
  - Families should expect communication about the food drive within a week
- **Safety**
  - 3 fire drills happened in the fall, hold and secure drill, two lockdowns drills will be coming in the new year and 3 more fire drills in the spring
  - Staff to talk to students about snow safety and being safe on the playground
- **Program**
  - School Improvement planning continues
  - Equity is a big focus. Three different ways Balaclava is supporting this:
  - Kindergarten and primary are focusing on reading. Noticed with COVID there is a significant gap. There is PD with professional readers as well as teaching resources.
  - Junior staff are looking for ways to continue commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.
  - Intermediate staff are continuing work with Human Rights
  - Board passed a new human rights policy. Intermediate work aligns well with this.
  - Question about homework - the board's policy is available on the website. It is

assigned on an educator by educator basis.

- Primary restructuring happened in October and some parents felt that it wasn't handled very well. Unfortunately, this is likely to happen every year and it is best to try and prepare your child for this.
- Do we know why this happened and not other years? No, and unfortunately it isn't preventable.
- **Facilities**
  - All the trees have been pruned this year
  - Ongoing communication to get climbers where they need to be. Still waiting on that to be fixed to the school board standard. Intermediate climber is not being used.
  - Does the ratio of supervisors to students meet the board standard? There is no board standard, this is determined by the principal.
  - Thank-you to Home & School for supporting The Forest of Reading which will be coming in the next month.
  - Question about the situation with the water on November 29th: The UV water filtration system shuts the water off and a water cooler was put up for students to use.
  - There is a continued concern with regards to the water and the condition of the bathrooms. There are no feminine hygiene dispensers in the primary washroom at the moment and some girls need them.

### **Item 3: School Council Update**

- School Council board presentation ([link](#))
  - Communication
  - School Council Annual Report ([link](#))
- An email was sent out to the current email list. Received a few responses from parents who hadn't been able to attend a meeting recently but wanted to continue receiving the emails. The email list is now down to about 30 emails from 60.
- PRO Grant discussion
  - We are required to submit an application for the PRO Grant by the end of January. An email will be going out to School Council asking for member input on what we use the funds for this year.
  - Student use of technology - Chris Vollum
  - Health & wellness sessions
  - Math night
  - Literacy night

### **Item 4: H & S Report**

- Just finished FundScrip - over \$10k in gift cards was purchased. Hoping to do it again in the Spring.
- No H & S meeting in December. Next one will be January 11th.
- Firm up special food days for February onward
- H & S funded the Forest of Reading
- Approved all new sports equipment
- Fundraising focusing on playground enhancement, playground committee starting in the new year
- Upcoming fundraisers for spring tea for Mother's Day, spring fun fair
- Holiday Show - would love helpers
  - Kids are doing stand-up, tap dancers, music
  - Curtain wings were removed because the fire retardant was expired. Therefore, to use that stage for any arts initiative is difficult

### **Item 5: New Business**

- Review student cell phone policy
  - Think about content and teaching students to be responsible digital citizens
  - Ensuring that use aligns with other board policies
  - Devices are permitted for instructional purposes
  - Bringing a device is never mandatory
  - How do teachers handle when students are not adhering to the policy? If students need

multiple reminders they may be asked to hand it in and the device will be kept at the office until the end of the day

- What is the purpose in allowing cell phones in schools if tablets are available for instructional use? Some parents want to encourage the responsible use of personal technology. Some families have wanted to communicate with their child without going through the office, the school asks that they don't do that.
  - Whether it is preferable for a student to bring their own device is the educator's preference. The suggestion is to reach out directly to your student's educator if you have any specific questions or concerns.
- There is no longer a dedicated day for parent-teacher interviews. A parent can always reach out and book a meeting with their teacher.
  - Next meeting: January 31st

**Meeting Adjournment: 8:08pm**