



Meeting Agenda
Balaclava School Council
January 31st, 2022 @ 6pm

| Item # | Discussion | Name |
|--------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Welcome | Jacky Small/Hannah Wright |
| 2 | School Report | Kristi Keery-Bishop |
| 3 | School Council Update | Jacky Small/Hannah Wright |
| 4 | Home & School Update | TBD |
| 5 | New Business | All |

Meeting Commenced: 6:00pm

Attendance:

- Sarah Fujimoto, Steve Bell, Erin Bell, Kristi Keery Bishop, Erin Duncan, Jacky Small, Seema, Michael Highdale

Item 1: Welcome

- Welcome & virtual meeting best practices
- Land Acknowledgement
- Attendance
- Review & approval of minutes from November 29th, 2022
 - Motioned by Erin and Sarah

Item 2: School Report

- **Student Council**
 - Checkers club just started for grade 3-8 with a tournament in Ancaster
 - Grade 7-8 band going
 - Junior choir grade 4-8
 - Senior boys basketball team just started
 - Student Council led a Kindness Week
 - Feb 14 - Pink, Red, White day
 - March 10 - PJ/comfy clothes day
- **Safety**
 - Nutrition breaks have been altered, reviewing supervision around the school to find out where there were gaps. Flipped nutrition break. There was not enough supervision inside and outside. Now students go outside first so period 2 + 4 teachers can get their students ready for outdoors. Encouraging students to eat breakfast before they come to school as they are eating 20 minutes later now
 - Snow safety - the board is now plowing a path on the playground. The pathway they plow is icy and doesn't get salted and leaves big snow piles that kids love to climb. Board does it for accessibility for students with mobility issues.
 - Is it possible for more space to be used to separate the primary and intermediate students across the playground? The issue here is supervision capacity. All teachers at Balaclava are maxed out on supervision duties. There are no plans in the near future because staffing won't change this year. Parents cannot volunteer as an official supervisor. The zones have been tightened up. There is no standard ratio of supervisor:student. Risks are assessed based on the site. HWDSB does not support

hiring extra supervision, but could advocate through the trustee. Kristi to find out if parents could volunteer in an unofficial capacity. Kristi to look into a rotation for zones for the different age groups. Potential to reassess after March Break. Board budgets have resulted in staffing constraints especially with specialty teachers like Math Facilitators, Reading Specialists etc.

- Staff had requested a tightening of personal device use policy for intermediate students. Board has multiple policies that speak to personal device usage but it is not clear for students or parents. A one-pager policy is being drafted with a section for parent and student consent. This will be posted on the website and discussions will happen at the classroom level with a hard copy going home.
- **Program**
 - Book sets that H&S purchased were received and distributed
 - Report cards are going home February 17th. Everyone feels much more in a groove this year compared to the last few years. It has been challenging to determine individual student gaps. The board took away the provincial parent-teacher interview day. Parents are encouraged to reach out to the teacher if they have any questions.
 - Are there parameters for the teachers to contact parents with specific concerns. The guideline is that there should be no surprises for parents.
 - The Ontario Human Rights Right to Read report came out last spring. Every school needs to offer intervention and diagnostic materials to catch students not reading at an appropriate level. At the board level they are coming up with tools but are not sure which ones will be approved. They are trials going with different programs at different grade levels. DRA is a program that helps inform teachers on reading progress and is still being used right now but long term probably won't be.
 - Parents can absolutely volunteer to provide reading support. Teachers must be willing to host volunteers and volunteers must have a police check. Kristi can reach out to teachers to invite them to reach out to their student's parents if they are interested in volunteering.
- **Facilities**
 - There has been zero progress on the playground repairs. It is definitely on Kristi's radar and she is working with the facilities manager.
 - H&S production happened in the gym before Christmas. 3/12 stage lights were working, new light bulbs are \$4200 or we can get a whole new LED light system installed for \$7500. The board does not allow facility type donations but we can fundraise. There are also no side curtains but H&S did not mention that.
 - Rural Schools committee 6:30-8pm. Rural funding is being used to book busing for end of year trips.
 - There was a concern raised at the last meeting with the water filtration system failing and resulting in the water shutting off. Mrs. Madley, our morning caretaker's first responsibility is to test the water and send it to the board. Testing is also done weekly. There is also always someone who is well water trained so they know how to do all those procedures. Kristi to look into preventative maintenance and why it happened in the past.
 - Sanitary products are not in the bathrooms as they've been abused. Kristi to look into the disposal options in the junior bathroom.

Item 3: School Council Update

- PRO Grant application
- Discussed applying to use the funds for a financial literacy night. That application will be sent out tomorrow morning.
- Potential for next year to use funds for agendas

Item 4: H & S Report

- Membership is increasing and are starting to understand the difference between H&S and Parent Council.
- Would like to get the lines of communication open between both groups.
- Yearbook committee is being formed and looking for volunteers
- Discussion is ongoing on the possibility of the extension to the playground
- There is now a secretary.

- All food days have come up, normal pizzas, subs, booster juice, special days are hot dogs, pancake parent lunch in February. Butter chicken day is happening. Pasta day is also happening and always a hit.
- Fun Fair is starting to gear up.
- Trying to do a Krispy Kreme fundraiser
- Hoping to do a tea luncheon at the community centre at March or April
- Fundscrip will be run again and hopefully happen at least twice a year
- Playground quotes are around \$38,000. Some money has been used for books. Gym equipment was purchased. Learning commons has also been a part of the use of funds.
- There is a form in the office where parents can submit a formal request for use of funds.
- Encourage parents to become a member because even if you don't attend the meetings you have a vote.
- If the board voted the funds could be used for the stage lights.

Item 5: New Business

- There was a question about whether it was possible to start a weekly newsletter. Ms. Rizzo had done that in the past.
- Discussion on parent communication at the beginning of the year to let the school know of any mental health concerns that they should be aware of. Kristi will bring this up with the Superintendent.
- School class information is not being provided until September this year. Only students through specialized intake are granted visits with teachers prior to the school year. Messaging will be provided at the beginning of the year that this is your starting class and October will be your forever class. Question was brought up as to why the reorganization happened and why specific students were chosen. The school does not provide rationale as to why specific students were reorganized. Kristi also encourages parents to have a conversation with parent's teachers at the beginning of the year to inform them about relevant information on their student.
- Next meeting: March 28th, 6pm

Meeting Adjournment: 7:55pm