



## Meeting Agenda Balaclava School Council June 6th, 2023 @ 6pm

Item #	Discussion	Name
1	Welcome	Jacky Small/Hannah Wright
2	School Report	Denise Minardi
3	School Council Update	Jacky Small/Hannah Wright
4	Home & School Update	TBD
5	New Business	All

### Meeting Commenced: 6:00pm

#### Attendance:

- Erin Bell, Denise Minardi, Jacky Small, Ellie Millard, Hannah Wright, Laura Harris

#### Item 1: Welcome

- Welcome & virtual meeting best practices
- Land Acknowledgement
- Attendance
- Review & approval of minutes from March 28th, 2023
  - Ellie Millard

#### Item 2: School Report

##### Principal's Report

- Denise Minardi is stepping in temporarily until Mrs. Keery Bishop returns
- Current student population is 334 students (65 kindergarten, 99 primary, 98 junior and 72 intermediate)
- Staffing is ongoing – Balaclava will welcome Amber Hone to a DECE position next year and Mrs. Buckle-Marshall has returned to kindergarten full time. Ms. Tudor will teach the second kindergarten class. We will have a new junior French teacher and music teacher in September. We thank Ms. Spada, Mrs. Abou Sharaf, Mme Wagner and Ms. Sheeler for being part of the Balaclava school community this year.
- The timetable creation and student placement has started. Classroom assignments will be sent out automatically through School Messenger the week before classes begin
- Kindergarten orientation was well attended with 16 families joining us for the event – Kindergarten registration is ongoing so please let any neighbours know to register their child online for next September. 22 students are registered to attend kindergarten in September 2023
- Open House was also well attended and the book fair was a great success.
- Emergency drills are ongoing – 2 lockdowns, 1 shelter in place, 1 hold and secure and 1 bomb threat and as well as 6 fire drills have been completed
- EQAO was completed for Grade 3 and Grade 6 students the last 2 weeks of May
- Grade 8 visit to Waterdown District High School took place on May 30
- Grade 6-8 soccer at Mohawk Sports Park took place on June 1
- Grade 6-8 track and field at Mohawk Sports Park took place on June 6
- Grade 4-5 soccer at Heritage Green Sports Park took place on June 8

- Grade 7-8 trip to Canterbury Hills is scheduled for June 8-9
- Grade 3-5 track and field at Mohawk Sports Park is scheduled for June 15
- JSA / JSB Waterdown Lanes bowling trip is scheduled for June 21
- K-Grade 6 trip to Silver City Ancaster is scheduled for June 22
- Grade 8 commencement is scheduled for Thursday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m.
- Balaclava play day / picnic – full school June 27 (Ms. Wynne and Ms. Hrycenko to organize)
- Bus situation is ongoing although most of the buses are on time!
- Rural Schools Advisory Committee meeting was on May 17 (Denise and Jacky attended)
  - Rural Schools funds are being used for bussing
  - There will be some additional funding available to apply for through Rural Schools – we are thinking of applying for playground painting
- Mrs. Nelligan expects that the tuck shop order that arrived this week will be sold out in the next week or so.
- As always, thank you to school council for your ongoing support this year
- Questions:
  - There have been reports that some of the older students have been selling items like friendship bracelets, chocolate bars, etc.
  - Principal Minardi and Mrs. Harris will look into this further.
  - Update: Principal Minardi followed up with staff and students about kids buying and selling items at school. She explained that running their own business was something to do from home, not school. She told them that the only money that should come to school should be for tuck shop

#### **Student Council**

- Meeting next week to talk about an end of the year spirit day
- 150 seed bombs sold
- Students decided to split money between Hamilton Health Sciences and Animal Adoptions
- Grade 7 & 8 students recently wrote the Gauss Math contest

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

- School Council open positions for next year
  - Co-chair - potentially Jacky Small
  - Co-chair
  - Secretary
- Information will go home about School Council at the beginning of next year sharing the available positions and asking for nominations
- In the event there is nobody elected the Principal would organize the meetings
- Update on retirement gift for Ms. Rizzo
  - Originally our plan was to purchase a tree to plant on the school grounds but this has proven too expensive based on the board's requirements for size and type of tree
  - It was suggested that we use the funds for gardening efforts around the school instead
  - Hannah to reach out to Lousie Wynn or Debbie Nelligan to coordinate

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

- AGM happened on May 17th, newly elected representation
- Erin Bell has taken on treasury with Sarah Fujimoto
- Brittney is staying on as secretary, Lindsay as chair
- Planning for a fall feast in October
- Funds will be used towards sports court placed in back field, waiting on facility maintenance to get back with two additional quotes
- Tried gluten free and vegan pizza to accommodate a few families for pizza day
- Free pancake day next Monday, asking kindergartners to come with containers to take home leftovers
- Pasta day June 16th
- H & S social is happening on June 19th

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

- Inquiries have been made to H & S about tick spraying on the Balaclava grounds, Ellie looked into a tick tube treatment but this is not permitted because it is a pesticide. This is not part of the

school board policy. In addition, there are really no sprays that are effective. The main preventative measure is to keep the grass cut short.

- We had brought up whether there was a possibility that parents could volunteer to help reading in the classroom at previous meetings. Principal Minardi is not sure where this landed but she can look into this and address it for next year.
- There has been a lot of PD day on using UFLI reading program
- KnowledgeHook is being introduced next year for math programming
- Did the playground ever get fixed?
  - Some repairs were done but we are not sure if everything was completed or whether it has partially repaired.

**Meeting Adjournment: 7:15pm**