



BalACLAVA Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

280 10th Concession E
Freelton, Ontario L8B 1H6
Phone: 905.659.3396
Fax: 905.659.0901

EMAIL: balACLAVA@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: K. Keery Bishop
k.keerybi@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/balACLAVA

Election and Meeting Agenda BalACLAVA School Council

Thursday October 12, 2023 @ 6 p.m. in BalACLAVA School Library

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Regrets sent by Jacky Small and Erin Bell
- Introduction and welcome of new attendees Charmaine Williams and Amber Vandebroek
- Also in attendance Kristi Keery Bishop (Principal)

2. Election of Executive and Membership Positions

- Kristi explained the election process and role of school council.
- Jacky Small has agreed to be a Cochair of council in absentia
- Charmaine and Amber agreed to be members at large
- Kristi will talk to Jacky and Erin to confirm their continued interest in sitting on council as voting members.

3. School Report

- Safety – Kristi talked about how lots of time in September was spent by educators reviewing and teaching school rules, boundaries and expectations and it is going well at this point in the year

- Safety – discussed the role and progress of annual safety drills that must occur in schools. Will have completed our mandatory 3 fall fire drills by next week. Will complete 2 lockdown, 1 hold and secure, 1 shelter in place, 1 bomb threat and 3 spring fire drills as the year goes on. Discussed how we have made the decision not to hold our bomb threat drill in the fall because of a significant number of bomb threats in other parts of the school board this fall and not wanting to create any fear, anxiety or confusion by holding them at this time. However, Balaclava staff have reviewed processes for bomb threats so that they are prepared.
- Program – Kristi explained the process of re-organization to those who were unfamiliar with it. At Balaclava this year, 7 classes were impacted and approximately 35 students directly impacted by the October 7th re-organization. However, no staff were lost or gained. No additional re-organizations would occur for the remainder of the school year. Question was asked about why families didn't find out class assignments until just before school started. Kristi explained this is a new board process meant to soften or eliminate the impacts of potential re-organization on schools. It allows schools to tentatively build class assignments in the spring and then make adjustments at the end of August due to registrations and demissions prior to families finding out. This board-process is expected to continue in the upcoming school year.
- Program – Kristi explained we are working with a new Language curriculum this year and teachers have been and will be doing learning around its implementation. The biggest change for families is that the grade 1 to 8 report cards in February and June will feature 1 mark for language

(instead of the previous 4 marks – 1 for reading, 1 for writing, 1 for oral communication and 1 for media).

- Program – Kristi explained that the October 20th PD day will be for staff development in the areas of language and mathematics. The November 17 PD day will be for Parent-Teacher interviews.
- Facilities – Balaclava has been chosen for a 2024 capital project by facilities. Scope of the project is a repaving and levelling of our current staff parking lot. This will not occur until the summer of 2024 so the school year will not face any disruption because of the project.
- Facilities – Acknowledgement of the great addition to our playground of the full basketball court, completed funded by Home and School Association.

4. New Business

- Cross Country – question about why there wasn't bussing provided for the meet. Kristi explained that the cost for 2 buses would have been over \$900 (and we would actually have needed 3 buses for the 93 students who attended). Since the site of the race – Christie Conservation Area – is close by and historically a large number of Balaclava families often attend to watch their child anyways, we made the decision to attempt to switch to driving in cars. The coach reviewed arrangements with each student and accessed rides for those who didn't have one. However, the communication was not clear to parents on the letter – Kristi said this was an oversight and next time the school would do a better job of communicating the process to families so no one felt they had to scramble to get there.

- Concern raised about the teaching of growth and development teaching in elementary school. Kristi explained that there is an established growth and development unit of study for grade 1 to 8 classes. That this occurs in May and June and a letter is sent home prior to that unit outlining what is being taught and parents have the option to opt out.

5. Setting of Future Meeting Date(s)

- Will discuss with other committee members before setting date of next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.