



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

Meeting Minutes Balaclava School Council

Tuesday January 30, 2024 @ 6 p.m. in Balaclava School Library

In Attendance: Jacky Small (Chair), Charmaine Williams (Member), Erin Duncan (Member), Shannon Cassidy (Teacher Rep), Kristi Keery Bishop (Principal), Brittany Lyell, Laura Schmidt

Regrets: Amber Vandenbroek (Member), Erin Bell (Member)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Jacky to welcome, introductions
- Approval of agenda – approved unanimously
- Approval of November minutes – approved unanimously

2. School Report

- Safety – Kristi provided draft copy of 2023/2024 Personal Device Use Contract and explain the constraints of board policies. Explained distribution to classes in grades 4 to 8 and posting on the school website. Discussed how to support families (e.g. include a letter about the detrimental effects use of devices in school). Suggested teacher/students develop class contract for further emphasize expectations, and encourage teachers to have a conversation with students about class responsibilities. Noted that school non-instruction

times can be isolating for students who don't have a personal device.

- Program-Tastebuds grant approved. Just waiting for the money to roll in and then we'll start serving snacks Mon/Wed afternoons to all classes. May expand to Fridays if it goes well. Plan to start sometime in February as soon as we get the funds.
- Facilities – parking lot refresh this summer. This will alter the direction of traffic of cars to help avoid the near collisions of buses/cars at entry and dismissal and make our accessible parking more accessible. Bus area paving will be widened.
- Teacher Report – lots of great things going on. Checkers club with tournament in March (for grades 4 to 8). Senior swim team this spring, senior boys basketball currently, free throw competition for interested students and sent to Knights of Columbus competition on Saturday. Choir – going to Choir fest this spring. Talent show for grades 4/5 to Gr 8. Robotics training and materials. Chess club? We'll check into it.

3. Home and School Report

-Will pick a new date for hot dog day because of April 8th's new PD Day. Fun fair scheduled for May 23. More information to follow.

4. Boundary Review Meeting Update – 2 of the 3 meetings have occurred regarding the boundary review. Third Meeting scheduled for Feb 8th for committee. Decision needs to be made soon to align with staffing timelines. Two most likely scenarios that have been presented are:

- **Scenario 5** – All new English students south of HWY 5 directed to Guy Brown, Flamborough Centre grades K to 5 directed to Balaclava, Flamborough Centre becomes a 6-8 school only

- **Scenario 6** – All new English students from south of HWY 5 are directed to AA Greenleaf, K-4 from Flamborough Centre are directed to Balaclava, all grade 5-8 FI students are directed to Guy Brown, Mary Hopkins becomes a K-4 English and 1-4 FI school and Flamborough Centre becomes a 5-8 English only school
- Went through scenarios at public meeting. No questions were permitted. Comments could be submitted via paper or electronically. To be collated and reported back. Concerns about length of bus rides.
- Council group to meet again Feb 8th. Decision by board should follow soon after.

5. New Business

- Pro Grant – Consider Leo Barbe as a speaker on May 9th after Open House “Ripple Effects” . Jacky to inquire about date for availability. Will connect with Kristi to complete form if it works out.

6. Setting of Future Meeting Date(s)

- Tuesday March 26 at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 7:29 p.m.