



# BalACLAVA Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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## Meeting Minutes BalACLAVA School Council

November 18, 2024 @ 6 p.m. in BalACLAVA School Library

In Attendance: Jen Lowe (Chair), Carleigh O'Brien, Charmaine Williams (virtual), Lesley Ardron (teacher rep), Kristi Keery Bishop (Principal)

Regrets: Andrea Holloway, Karri Blysmá, Laura Gray, Carly Buchelt, Erin Meanchoff, Erin Bell

### • Welcome and Introductions

- Approval of agenda – \*to be done by email vote as meeting did not meet quorum (Approved by majority of members after the meeting by email)
- Approval of minutes – \*to be done by email vote as meeting did not meet quorum (Approved by majority of members after the meeting by email)
- Voting in of new members – in last meeting, council decided to welcome on as a member-at-large anyone who originally nominated but wasn't able to attend first meeting. Carleigh O'Brien meets that criteria. \*Vote on including Carleigh as a member at large\* (Approved by majority of members after the meeting by email).

### • School Report

- Safety – first Lockdown drill next week. Will put in weekly update. So far, all required safety drills have gone well.



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- Program- Progress reports coming home this week. Interviews later this week. SK to gr 2 students who participated in Acadience initial screening will also get a progress letter at/after interviews.
- Update from the music department: Talent show will be occurring in December, there will be a primary concert in February, and a Junior/intermediate concert in May.
- We'll have a yearbook again this year. Not run by Home and School because of board/ministry privacy requirements, but school will be trying to replicate the previous set up as much as possible. Will go on sale in new year, and be delivered in June. Not a fundraiser, will just sell to cover costs.
- Facilities – Nothing new to report
- Teacher Report
  - i. CCAT (Canadian Cognitive Achievement Test) for grade 4s was completed first week of November. Typically hear results in February/March.
  - ii. Family Movie Night next week (Thursday Nov 28<sup>th</sup>) in support of the Eco Team initiative of a pollinator garden.
  - iii. Food bank drive starts Nov 28<sup>th</sup> for two weeks for the Flamborough Food Bank.
- **Home and School Report**
  - not in attendance. Will request written report to be included in minutes.



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- Discussed some of the initiatives recently funded in the school by Home and School (a new ipad for every class, lego coding kits, books for classroom libraries) and how appreciated these projects have been.
- Written report added: launched new website which shows families up and coming events, lost and found items and school calendar. Fundscrip has been a huge success this year. The fall campaign raised over \$1200. Thank you to everyone who participated.
- **Rural School Report**
  - Jen and Kristi recently attended Rural Schools meeting. One of about 12 schools in the board considered a rural school by the province. We receive some rural school funding to support enhance student supports. Balaclava gets about \$5000 this year which is allocated to playground repair (already completed, just waiting for invoices) and busing. Jen advocated for applying for additional funding to support grade 8 year-end projects (e.g. commencement activities)
- **Pro Grant** – application due this Friday. Can apply for \$500, \$750 or \$1000 for a project for this school year that supports parents and caregivers (not students directly). Suggestions include consider whether there is an item we can purchase for parents that helps them connect to school that could be given out at Fun Fair (e.g.



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school year calendar with important information on it for 2025-2026). \*Looking for suggestions early this week\*\*

- **Other Business** – Charmaine asked about agendas and if this is an item that students would receive every year. Kristi explained that they are not required, but it is at principal's discretion to purchase or not for all students. Kristi chooses to purchase because it supports student organization and responsibility while also supporting parent/school communication. Charmaine and Jen expressed approval of having agendas for students and feel that they are helpful.
- **Setting of Future Meeting Date(s)**
  - Next meeting TUESDAY January 21, 2025, 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.