



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
kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava

Meeting Minutes Balaclava School Council

Monday September 23, 2024 @ 6 p.m. in Balaclava School Library

In Attendance: Laura Gray, Andrea Holloway, Karri Bylsma, Heather Rickard, Charmaine Williams, Erin Bell, Jenn Lowe, Kristi Keery Bishop (principal), Lesley Ardron (teacher rep),

Regrets: Carly Buchelt, Carleigh O'Brien

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Introductions
- Approval of agenda – unanimous (post election vote)

2. Election

- Jenn Lowe – elected chair unanimously
- Members at large elected: Laura Gray, Andrea Holloway, Karri Bylsma, Heather Rickard, Charmaine Williams, Erin Bell, Carly Buchelt (in absentia)
- Elected members agreed that the interested people who sent in nomination forms but didn't attend this meeting can attend the next meeting and be voted in, if still interested.

3. School Report

- Safety – Play structures. Had to close them for last week or so while we waited for some maintenance work to be done. Passed their inspections today, will be re-opening later this



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
kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava

week (weather permitting) with reminders of the rules for the structures.

- Program- Re-organization. Mostly good news. None of our students will be moving classes. All of our teacher assignments will remain the same as well. Only change is Mrs. Hunter, DECE in JSB, will be moving on and a new DECE who was displaced by re-organization will join the school on October 2-3.
 - Meet the teacher Oct 3. Scholastic book fair in library. Flyer went home today as a reminder. If you want to purchase pizza, need to do so on School Cash Online by this Friday.
- Facilities – Parking lot, bus lanes summer revitalization. Also some work done on some of our alternate entrances to make them more accessible (added ramps).
- Teacher Report – Events – teachers working on volunteering for supervision of different events/clubs/sports. Jnr Swim team, Cross Country, 3 Pitch Jnr/Snr this week, Terry Fox this Friday. Teachers very relieved there is no re-org. Has been a great start up for classes. New literacy assessment (Acadience), mandatory for K to 2 and voluntary for gr 3 to 8.
 - i. Math PD coming up for grade 3 and 6 math teachers.
 - ii. Grade 4 CCAT (Canadian Cognitive Achievement Test) testing upcoming in November

4. Home and School Report (Erin Bell)

- First meeting Oct 10, 7 p.m.
- Currently 5 executive and 41 members.



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
kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava

- Will be sending home Cheddar Up to sign up for volunteering, be a member, and for food days. Always looking for volunteers who can give some time. Very flexible. Currently searching for a pizza day co-ordinator to take over mid year.
- Home and School trying to send out weekly newsletter on Thursdays on School website. Provides the most information about upcoming events, volunteering and fundraising (and fundraising initiatives)
- While school isn't able to use social media for communication, Home and School can, and will continue to advertise school events and info on their social media sites regularly.

5. New Business

- Parent communication regarding extra curriculars. Parents understand the financial pressures on school to organize busing for events such as sports teams, however, encouraging school to provide more information about what the commitment will be for each extra curricular will help them decide what they/their child can reasonably commit to.
 - i. Kristi to include teacher organizer contact information on Friday weekly updates to help parents know who to reach out to
 - ii. Parent willing to help organize fellow parents will try to volunteer to be the point of communication (e.g. to



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
kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava

organize rides, start a whats app group among the parents to share information). Will attempt this as a trial with junior swim team and see how it goes.

6. Setting of Future Meeting Date(s)

- Tuesday November 19, 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.