



BalACLAVA Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Meeting Minutes **BalACLAVA School Council** Tuesday January 21, 2025 @ 6 p.m. in BalACLAVA School Library

In Attendance: Jen Lowe (Chair), Erin Meanchoff, Andrea Holloway, Carleigh O'Brien, Erin Bell (Virtual), Heather Rickard (Virtual), Laura Gray, Charmaine Williams, Michelle Moase (Teacher Rep), Kristi Keery Bishop (Principal)

Regrets:

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Approval of agenda – carried
- Approval of minutes – N/A - completed online after last meeting.

2. School Report

- Safety – Privacy and permissions – almost everyone has completed media/device consent forms. Thanks to families for their diligence and Mrs. Nelligan's reminders. Will be reviewing with any families who said no to explain that this would also bar the student from the yearbook and work with them to provide an appropriate pathway.
- Program- P.A. Day this Friday. Teachers working on term 1 report cards. We've been reviewing all of the learning skills



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with students and talking about how the development of these skills will lead to even better academics.

- Facilities – No Report.
- Teacher Report (Michelle Moase) – Sports – boys senior basketball ongoing. Lunchtime Intramurals – volleyball boys and girls, 7/8. Badminton tournaments (first doubles and now singles) at lunch. Other clubs running: 4-6 Coding club, Drama club 4-6, Checkers club 3-8, Crib Club 3-8, Primary math club starting in February.
- Next movie night: February 27th 5- 7 p.m. Will advertise soon. Have learned some tips from the last session and will adapt this one to make it even better.
- Report cards going home Feb 14th.
- Primary concert February 13th. Will confirm timing with Mrs. McIntosh asap and post information for families as soon as we get it. Group reported hearing concerns from families about lack of lead time for information about school events. School will work to get out information as soon as we can.

3. Home and School Report (Erin Bell)

- Excited to launch winter food orders. Closes this Thursday (Jan 23) for term 2 food.
- Excited to announce members voted to give grade 8 graduates a class composites and folder for graduation in lieu of previous year gifts (e.g. cookie).
- More books to be purchased for the school coming soon.



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- Chef a l'Ecole coming February 3 for classes 56A, 56B and 45A sponsored by Home and School.
- Fun Fair: looking for volunteers. Need more co-ordinators to share the workload.
- Subs will continue next year, Michelle Quinn has agreed to continue on co-ordinating this, even though her children have left the school.
- Secretary going on mat leave (Britney Lyell) so Robin Dailey is filling in.

4. New Business

- Pro Grant (Jen) – submitted funding request but it was denied because it was vague. Jen has been looking for specific suggestions. Home and School recommended a hand out about social media/tech trends and safety tips for online usage as a resource for parents. Still looking for other ideas. Parents can find it difficult to keep up with trends in technology – (e.g. how can you set parameters for children to have safe google searches). Group discussed considering workshop presentation – virtual or in person option. Consider also presenting to students, although Pro Grant doesn't cover student-specific presentations. (Home and School would be willing to consider helping support for student activity). Jen to take away and research.
- Kristi requested change in practice for minutes approval. Typically we approve minutes at next meeting, but this



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means big time delay before they are posted for whole school. Council agrees to new process where we send out minutes to council within a week of the meeting, edit/approve online and then post minutes for families sooner.

- Andrea requested school add calendar to school website to inform families about school events. Kristi to look into adding it.
- Laura suggested the school consider doing a used book sale for families to donate children's books and families could then purchase for small amount. Could be a fundraiser for the school. Kristi will have Eco-Team (Mrs. Cassidy, Ms. Spada) consider taking it on as a spring project, perhaps around Open House.
- Laura voiced concern about buses that don't always come on time or at all, particularly in the morning and whether parents could volunteer to supervise students on the playground in advance of supervision at 9 a.m. Kristi explained we can't centrally organize parent supervisors but individual parents/caregivers are welcome to supervise their children on the playground until 9 am. Discussed issues of bus delays, absences and notification. Recognize that it is frustrating but not a school- (or even board-) specific issue. Notification comes to the school the same time parents get notified. Notification comes from the Transportation department when you subscribe to the communication.



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- Charmaine asked question regarding the setting of bell times. Kristi explained that this is a centralized decision and is usually determined based on best utilization of resources (e.g. transportation), so school times are staggered. All school bell times were reviewed about 3 years ago. No system review or review for our school is known at this time.

5. Setting of Future Meeting Date(s)

- **Tuesday March 25 at 6 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned:

- 7:02