



Balaclava Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Annual School Council Report for Balaclava **June, 2025**

As we conclude another successful school year, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your unwavering support and active involvement. Your dedication has been instrumental in fostering a vibrant and nurturing environment for our students.

I would like to thank our School Council members this year for their efforts and dedication. This year members of School Council included: Jennifer Lowe (Chair), Members at Large Erin Bell, Carly Buchelt, Karri Bylsma, Laura Gray, Andrea Holloway, Carleigh O'Brien, Heather Rickard, Charmaine Williams, and Teacher Representatives Lesley Ardron and Michelle Moase.

Throughout the year, the School Council meetings have been a place to work a number of initiatives:

- Improved, timely communication between school and home:
 - Shift to weekly website updates instead of monthly school newsletters
 - Using the calendar tool on the school website to better communicate events farther in advance for families to plan
 - Clearer understanding of extra curricular events offered and staff supervisors for parents/guardians to direct their questions
- More transparent collaboration between school and Home and School Association:
 - Reporting in School Council meetings by Home and School representatives
 - Weekly postings on school website dedicated to Home and School initiatives
- Reporting from HWDSB's Rural Schools Committee updates by School Council Chair and Principal
- Renewed advocacy by school council community to maintain use of student agendas as a valuable grade 1-8 communication and organization tool for students and families
- Discussions about parent/guardian involvement in and understanding of safety measures and strategies to support students' online presences has led to a School Council intention of acquiring the services of a specialist speaker for the 2025-2026 year using Pro Grant submission

Our school council meetings have played an important role in home/school collaborative efforts. These meetings have provided a platform for sharing ideas, discussing important matters and planning for the future. Your insights, questions and perspectives have greatly influenced our decisions and helped shape the direction of our school.

As we look forward to the next academic year, we encourage you to continue your active involvement. Your presence at our school council meetings is crucial, and we warmly invite all current Balaclava parents or guardians to join us in these gatherings.



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Next year, school council information and council nomination forms will go home with students the first week of school. We will hold our first meeting and election on September 23, 2025. We hope many BalACLAVA parents and guardians will be open to joining as an executive member, a member at large or as a participating non-voting member