

BLT Jr & BLT Sr Elementary- School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025

Attendance:

Present:

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Katie Sherren | Parent (BLT Sr) & Chair of SAC |
| 2) Ms. Tracey Quinn | Vice Principal (BLT Sr) |
| 3) Ms. Cali Huczel | Vice Principal (BLT Jr) |
| 4) Karri Lynn Davidson | Parent (BLT Jr & BLT Sr) |
| 5) Sarah Warford | Parent (BLT Jr & BLT Sr) |
| 6) Ian Angus | Community Member |

Regrets:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Mr. Albert Williams | Principal (BLT Jr) |
| 2) Mr. Craig Myra | Principal (BLT Sr) |
| 3) Mrs. Sarah Doxtater | English Teacher (BLT Sr) |
| 4) Mrs. Terri Mount | English Teacher (BLT Sr) |
| 5) Jill Baker | Parent (BLT Jr) |
| 6) Stephanie Brown | Parent (BLT Sr) |

Call to Order:

6:32 PM, January 13th, 2025
BLT Sr Cafeteria

Principal Report (BLT Sr): (Ms. Tracey Quinn)

Chair Lift Update:

- Lift has been inconsistent in terms of working. Operations is aware and technicians have been in regularly. The lift is required for some students to access music and/ or library.
- We will invite the Director of operations and building supervisor to our next meeting to discuss short term and long-term solutions with committee.
- Visit to Tantallon Sr prior to next meeting to view their set up.

Universal Lunch Program

- BLT Sr building cafeteria now being used to distribute food to have more efficiency.
- Timing of prep and delivery has improved since last meeting.

Student Success Planning (SSP)- Literacy for Cycle 2

- Literacy Cycle 1 Celebration: 75 additional students, including 12 ANS students and 3 students of indigenous ancestry, who were NOT meeting in September are now meeting at BLT Sr Elementary School!
- Literacy Cycle 2: This was created with staff the last week prior to holiday break and will be our focus until the end of March. Continuing with a lot of the strategies from cycle 1, while targeting grade 4-5 students who continue to need support with phonemic awareness and recoding strategies.
- Grade 2-3 Teachers will provide explicit instructions to students who need it by:
 - Applying known strategies to solve unknown words
 - Focus on hearing and recording sounds
 - Development of oral language, particularly in French Immersion

- Supporting manipulation of phonological units (isolating, segmenting, and blending) using UFLI.
- Grade 4-5 Teachers will continue to use whole group and small group instruction to focus on supporting students in the following skills:
 - Engagement with Text: the selection and interaction with a variety of texts based on interest, enjoyment, and information.
 - Strategic Processing of Text: any one of many simultaneous and coordinated thinking activities that go on in a reader's head to monitor comprehension. Thinking is Reading!
 - Responding to Text: using the background knowledge provided through instruction, combined with prior knowledge, to generate and answer questions, and summarize information.
- Learning Support Teachers:
 - Using our LST, we will look at scheduling of all learning support teachers to support grouping of students for intervention and to maximize supports in each classroom within the school to support students who are not meeting.
 - Collaborate with classroom teachers to support with grouping of students for small group instruction based on student strengths.

Student Success Planning- Mathematics for Cycle 2

- Teachers have decided we need to continue with computations fluency as a school wide initiative. Our added focus for this cycle is in gathering evidence of student learning daily to help inform instruction as well as target some grade 4 students who did not meet (level 1) during the spring 2024 provincial assessment for some targeted intervention. Clear description below.
- Grade 2-3 Teachers:
 - Continue action from cycle 1 of implementation of a 30 minute block of learning focused on developing students computational fluency. We will use anchor teachers to support our whole team with this strategy. This will be accomplished through modelling and professional development sessions.
- Grade 2-5 Teachers:
 - Continue action of cycle 1 of getting to know our students as mathematicians and gathering ongoing evidence of student understanding in relation to computational fluency.
 - Evidence gathered of student understanding will be analyzed during our PLC to identify trends to inform next steps for instruction.
- Grade 4 Teachers:
 - Will work intensively with the 18 grade 4 students who scored level 1 on the LM3 in the 23-24 school year. This will be supported through our LST with targeted small group instruction with support from our resource team.

Student Success Planning- Well Being for Cycle 2

- Will provide more detailed update at next SAC meeting. We are continuing with social emotional learning and supporting students with relationship building, problem solving, and conflict resolution.

Other Updates:

- Quincy Mac coming for performance tomorrow
- Virtual presentation with Ellie Black next week
- Lunch clubs will be starting up this term

- New bus has been added for our school.

Principal Report (BLT Jr): Ms. Cali Huczel

Student Success Planning- Literacy:

- Teachers will analyze reading data and plan explicit instruction.
- Teachers will use the workshop model daily.
- Development of oral language in the French Immersion program.

Student Success Planning- Math:

- Teachers will use a variety of ways to gather students' evidence of learning.
- Teachers will use this evidence to plan for next steps.
- Teachers will provide feedback on learning to support achievement.

Student Success Planning- Well-Being:

- Teachers will have daily circle time with students.
- Support the development of feeling language and pro-active problem-solving skills.
- Teachers will use resources from our equity bin to support the development of emotional language.

Operations:

- Building supervisor are working with us to ensure that our school is in compliance with Fire Marshall Requirements.

Lunch Monitors:

- We are now in the position that we are looking to hire more lunch monitors for our school.

Universal Lunch Program:

- The new oven has been delivered and installed over the Christmas Break.
- We are hoping to receive new warmers for both schools very soon.
- We should also have a new trolley soon to help with the delivery of food. This will be a change from the carts that we are using.
- Timing of prep and delivery has improved.

Breakfast Bins:

- Students have access to the breakfast bins each morning. They have a variety of items to choose from. They are filled on Monday and students can come down daily to get fresh fruit or to refill bins when they are low.

School Library:

- We have placed some SEL resources in the school library for teachers to sign out to support student programming. The Librarian will be purchasing some news books for the library.

Pre-Primary:

- Our numbers continue to grow for pre-primary and we have still have our term ECE support and a floating sub for the program. Pre primary and Primary Registration will take place in February.

Staff Update:

- Our African NS Student Support Worker Derick Brooks has returned.

Resources: (for Well Being and Social and emotional Development)

- Big Problems, Little Problems
- Except When They Don't
- Ian 's Walk
- Pink is For Everybody
- Solution For Cold Feet
- Ups and Down
- World is Ours to Cherries
- Each Teacher will receive a copy of the book Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain by Zaretta Hammond
- Coral Counting and Counting Collections for math

Upcoming Events:

- Martin Luther King Day January 20
- Family Literacy Day January 27
- International Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27
- Lunar New Year January 29
- February is African Heritage Month
- February is Registration Month
- Lockdown drill notice home (Feb 3-7)
- Second Lockdown Drill (February 10- 14)

Agreement & Bylaws: (Katie Sherren)

BLT Jr has been putting effort in recruiting more members. However, at this time, they have not received enough volunteers. Therefore, we will update our agreement and bylaws as one joint SAC. Katie will prepare prior to next meeting.

Next Meeting:

6:30 PM, February 3, 2025

BLT Sr Cafeteria

Meeting Adjourned:

7:40 PM, January 13th, 2025