

BLT JR & BLT SR Elementary- School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
May 26th, 2025
BLT SR Cafeteria

Attendance:

Present:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Katie Sherren | Parent (BLT Sr) & Chair of SAC |
| 2) Ms. Tracey Quinn | Acting Principal (BLT Sr) |
| 3) Mr. Albert Williams | Principal (BLT Jr) |
| 4) Ms. Cali Huczel | Vice Principal (BLT Jr) |
| 5) Mrs. Sarah Doxtater | English Teacher (BLT Sr) |
| 6) Sarah Warfard | Parent (BLT Jr & BLT Sr) |
| 7) Stephanie Brown | Parent (BLT Sr) |
| 8) Mrs. Terri Mount | English Teacher (BLT Sr) |
| 9) Karri Lynn Davidson | Parent (BLT Jr & BLT Sr) |

Regrets:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1) Ian Angus | Community Member |
| 2) Jill Baker | Parent (BLT Jr) |

Call to order:

6:15 PM, May 26th, 2025
BLT SR Cafeteria

Principal Report from BLT SR (Ms. Quinn):

Cycle 3 Update: We will be collecting data in both literacy and math between now and the end of term so I will be able to report next month on student growth once the data had been submitted. A final SSP report will be submitted early June. Classroom teachers along with Learning Support teachers are working hard to support cusp students to give them the final boost so that students will have a strong finish. Teachers are working with Math coaches and Literacy coaches for FI until the middle of June.

LM3: LM3 was completed by all grade 3 students last week. The results will be shared with us in November. As a way of recognizing their hard work, we will be having a pizza party this week. We also finished up last week with some post testing with students who did not meet the LM3 from last year. We went from 30 students not meeting to 6 students (EAL students and students who are currently being supported by resource).

Code of Conduct: On April 30th, the whole staff worked together to create an updated Vision Statement and looked at the code of conduct and some of the changes that are coming in September. We will be continuing this work into the fall and will share more information with you as we solidify the statements and new school matrix.

2025-2026: In April, our numbers were down so when they configured our school, we lost a classroom. Our numbers are now back up with students moving into BLT and it looks like we will go back up to 26 classes as we currently are. We are waiting for confirmation from HRCE which may not come until August when they look at the numbers again. We are currently in the process of hiring and securing teachers for next year.

Home Alone Course: This course is being offered during class time to all grade 5 students. Ideally, this would be free of cost but we were unable to access enough funds. Ms. Jennie is able to teach the course, families are asked to submit a fee to cover a portion of the cost of the manuals.

Principal Report from BLT JR (Mr. Williams):

Student Success Plan- Literacy:

- Teachers will use mentor text to model and explicitly teach comprehension strategies (meaning and questioning strategies).
- Teachers will continue to plan daily phonics and phonological awareness instruction utilizing the scope and sequence.
- Gather ongoing formative assessment about how students are doing using strategies learned in reading.
- Teachers will deliver lessons based on all six pillars of instruction with a focus on cultural relevance strategies and EAL support.

Student Success Plan- Math:

- Share assessment information with colleagues to support students' next steps during PLCs during staff meetings.
- Use various ways to gather evidence of student learning (observation notes, checklist, small group conversation, self-assessments).
- Use evidence of learning to plan next steps in number sense 30 minute blocks.
- Intentionally plan activities that promote opportunities to represent numbers in a variety of ways.

Student Success Plan- Well-Being:

- Ensure that resources being used are culturally responsive.
- Teachers will use evidence of students' strengths, interests, and challenges in planning for instruction and assessment.
- Intentionally embed student voice and choice into learning opportunities.

Special Events:

- May 14: Earth Day Assembly
- May 15: Black Excellent Day
- May 25-31: Nova Scotia Access Awareness Week
- May 26-30: Primary Transition Meetings

Upcoming Events:

- June 1-6: Fire Drill #6
- June 4: Grade 1 Field Trip to Discovery Centre
- June 7: Spring Fair
- June 11: Field Day (Rain Date: June 12)
- Primary Field Trip to Wildlife Park
- Registrations continue to come in

Resources and Staffing:

- Purchased soccer balls, items for outdoor play, and storage containers.

Breakfast Bins:

- Students continue to have access to the breakfast bins each morning. We continue to add a variety of healthy options for them to choose from.

Configurations for next year:

- English:
 - Pre Primary: 3 classes
 - Primary: 4 classes
 - Grade 1: 3 classes
 - Learning Centres: 3.5
- French:
 - Primary: 2 classes
 - Grade 1: 3 classes

Operations Building Maintenance:

- Work orders are actioned quickly.
- Door facing senior building latch was replaced.
- Air exchange has been repaired.
- New door placed on the staff room.
- Locks replaced on garbage bins.

Discussion with MLA Ian Rankin and Councillor Janet Steele:

1. It has been brought to our attention that crossing guards are not always present. Who can we contact if we notice they are absent? Do they have a substitute available or should we contact RCMP to direct traffic?
 - There is an established procedure in place for managing crossing guard coverage. If a crossing guard is unable to show up for work, they are required to call their supervisor, and the supervisor will have a replacement arranged.
 - If this process doesn't appear to be working, we can reach out to Janet Steele and she can look into it further.
2. We have considered closing the bus loop to family vehicles for student safety. Where would families park?
 - This concern should be brought to Steve Gallagher, Regional Executive Director.
 - Ms. Quinn will reach out to Steve Gallagher.
3. The Maplewood Dr neighborhood is often congested at pick up and drop off times. Is it possible to have sidewalks installed?
 - Sidewalks are very expensive and there is no room in the budget for new sidewalk installation within the next four years!
 - Concerns can be submitted through 311. Written documentation of concerns can be helpful.
4. There is green space adjacent to the BLT SR playground owned by HRM. Is there a possibility to transfer this land to the provincial government to allow for more parking or an additional pick up/ drop off zone?
 - This can also be brought to Steve Gallagher's attention. It may be beneficial to do an official assessment of our current bus loop to decide on what changes should be made, possible parking lot reconfiguration.

- Having the land transferred is a possibility, but it would come with challenges. The Maplewood Dr neighborhood may not be set up properly to have buses coming through, and the residents may not approve of removing green space.

5. In terms of encouraging active transportation, we are very fortunate to have the BLT trail connecting our community. However, an improved connection point between the BLT trail and BLT elementary would be beneficial. There is an unmarked path that follows the BLT SR soccer field to the trail. Could this be made an official path with crushed gravel?

- We would need to consider who owns the land through the path.
- We would need to reach out to BLT Trails to ask permission to add to the trail. They have been having a hard time finding funding to maintain the current trails.

SAC Innovation Fund:

- It has just been announced that the applications for the Innovation Fund are now open with a deadline of June 6.
- After discussions about what to apply for, we have decided on applying for funding so that next year, we can offer the “Home Alone” program to grade five students, free of charge.
- Katie and Ms. Quinn will work together on this to submit the application.

Plan for 2025-2026 School Year:

- SAC Annual Conference will be September, 2025. Katie (Chair) will attend with principals.
- Throughout September, we will advertise to our staff, families, and community what SAC is and how to join.
- Our first meeting will be early October, 2025.
- During our first meeting, there will be an opportunity for anyone to volunteer as our new SAC Chair.

Meeting Adjourned:

May 26th, 2025
7:30 PM