

BLT JR & BLT SR Elementary- School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
October 6th, 2025
BLT SR Cafeteria

Attendance:

Present:

1) Katie Sherren	Chair/ Parent	BLT SR
2) Mr. Albert Williams	Principal	BLT JR
3) Mrs. Cali Huczel	Vice Principal	BLT JR
4) Ms. Michelle Andrews	Principal	BLT SR
5) Ms. Tracey Quinn	Vice Principal	BLT SR
6) Ms. Christine Compton	English Teacher	BLT JR
7) Ian Angus	Community Member	
8) Karri Lynn Davidson	Parent	BLT SR
9) Sarah Warfard	Parent	BLT JR & BLT SR

Regrets:

1) Stephanie Brown	Parent	BLT SR
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Call to order:

6:06 PM, October 6th, 2025
BLT SR Cafeteria

Principal Report from BLT SR (Ms. Andrews):

Pink Shirt Day: September 11th - Students and staff wore pink to raise awareness about bullying.

Orange Shirt Day: September 26th – Students and staff wore orange and participated in a Truth and Reconciliation Day Walk.

Terry Fox Walk: October 3rd

Picture Day: School photos will be taken over two days, October 15th and 16th.

Bus Safety Week:

- October 20-24
- Student safety is a shared responsibility! During School Bus Safety Week, everyone will work together to ensure the safety of students on and around the bus.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

- Monday, November 10th at 10:30am.
- Military and retired military members are invited to attend this event.

Music Concerts

- November 25, 26, and 27
- More details will be shared with families later this month.

Mi'kmaq History Month (October)

Mi'kmaq questions will be announced daily. At the end of the month, there will be an assembly to celebrate and recognize the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people.

Fire Drill, Lockdown, and Hold and Secure Procedures Reviewed

- Staff reviewed fire drill responsibilities and procedures with students.
- Communication about upcoming drills and timing were communicated with families.
- A letter to families outlining Lockdown Drill rationale will be sent home this week.

Nova Scotia Lunch Program

- Procedures have been reviewed with staff on distribution.
- Adjustments have been made to improve the efficiency of delivering lunches.

Morning Arrival Procedures

Student safety is the highest priority. Going forward, the bus loop will remain closed to all non-designated vehicles as a permanent procedure for morning arrival. With the growing student population and students arriving for both the junior and senior buildings, this measure is essential to maintain a safe and orderly arrival and dismissal for everyone.

Staffing/ Reconfiguration

One additional teacher was added to support enrolment growth in the English program. A grade 4 class and a grade 3 class are now combined while a combined grade 4 and 5 class has been added.

Demographic form on PowerSchool

- An ongoing challenge to have families complete this form.
- This online form allows parents/ guardians to make updates to demographic information for students and will now replace the paper forms sent home each school year to gather new information.
- Many reminders have been sent home to families.

Paula's Place- This memo was sent to families in the October Newsletter:

As we welcomed students back to school this month, we were excited to reintroduce a learning space in our school, Paula's Place. This space was revitalized and renewed over the summer and will be an alternative learning space for all students in the school – with a big connection to safe and positive learning environments and a place where students can show their learning in inclusive and creative ways.

Paula's Place opened on December 6, 2006 – with more than 400 people in attendance. The community was deeply moved to see this beautiful, creative space established within BLT Sr, honoring the memory of Paula Gallant – a devoted educator who once taught at the school and whose life ended far too soon. The development of this project included many volunteers, family and friends who spent months building this room with many donations from the community and sponsors.

One of Paula's joys was art, and this room, and its supplies will pass on her passion. Art will be a central focus for this space and is an incredible way to improve student well-being and achievement. Engaging in art – through literacy, mathematics and now technology, will allow students to develop self-confidence, take risks, and build relationships in a safe environment. Paula's Place will allow for accessible learning opportunities so that every student will be engaged, challenged, and inspired.

Students have been thoroughly enjoying this space and eagerly anticipate many more enriching learning experiences throughout the year.

Student Success Plan

- Staff reviewed the **P-2 Intervention Model** and connections to short-cycle planning, MTSS model and Teaching Support Team.
- Time to collaborate as a whole staff about starting strategies for your first short cycle of literacy within the **Student Success Planning** process.
- Grade 2 screening complete.
- Met with ELST teachers and resource team to determine next steps.
- **MLST (Math Learning Support Teachers)**: working with classroom as Tier 1 support to establish classroom norms and to establish fluency blocks are scheduled in their timetables and that classrooms, assisted with math manipulative inventory.
- **LM3 Results** from May, 2025 will be distributed to parents/ guardians on October 9th.

Principal Report from BLT JR (Mr. Williams):

Special Events:

- September 3rd: Curriculum Night
- September 11th: Fire Drill #1
- September 11th: Pink Shirt Day to stand up against bullying
- September 18th: Lockdown Drill
- September 24th: Terry Fox Walk
- September 26th: Orange Shirt Day
- October 1st: Treaty Day
- October 3rd: Bus Evacuation Drill

Upcoming Events:

- October is Mi'kmaq History Month
- October 6-10th: Fire Drill #2
- October 9th: Picture Day for BLT JR
- October 13th: Thanksgiving (no classes)
- October 20th: Diwali
- October 20-24th: School Bus Safety Week
- October 24th: NSTU Conference Day (no classes)
- October 30th: Picture Retakes for BLT JR
- October 31st: Halloween

School Lunch Program

Recent changes to the school lunch program have been well received! Students have been enjoying the new menu options, there has been an increase in participation and positive feedback.

Lunch Monitors

Hoping to hire both full time and substitute lunch monitors to support our students during lunchtime.

Breakfast Bins

- Students have access to breakfast bins every morning including a variety of healthy options.
- Looking for a volunteer to help bag items- once per week or every second week. An alert will be sent out to ask for a volunteer.

Resource and Staffing

- Soccer balls and other items have been purchased for outside play at recess and lunch.
- New books were purchased for the school library.
- Two 80% EPA's have been added.
- Jaden Dixon is the new African NS Student Support Worker.

Goal Setting: Literacy, Math, and Student Well Being

We are currently in the process of setting our school goals with a focus on Literacy, Math, and Student Well-Being. These goals will help guide our teaching practices, support student growth, and ensure a positive and inclusive learning environment for all. More details will be shared to work together to support student success.

Universal Screening in Reading

Universal Screening is a short activity (usually 1-5 minutes) that gives teachers a quick snapshot of your child's reading development. Think of it like a map check- it helps us see where your child is on their reading journey and what might help them move forward. This will take place twice per year.

Discussion about Nova Scotia's School Milk Program:

- This program provides milk at a reduced cost to students during school hours.
- This program has been offered in the past but has created a large amount of waste and spills. Now that the Nova Scotia Lunch Program offers nutritious food to students, the milk program is not necessary at this time. Storage and distribution would also be difficult combined with the lunch program.

Discussion about Accessing BLT School by Active Mode of Transportation:

- BLT JR & BLT SR are fortunate to have the BLT Trails close by, offering students to arrive to school via active modes of transportation (walk, run, bike, etc.). Unfortunately, it is difficult to get onto the school grounds from the trail. The subdivision starting at Maplewood Drive is very busy in the mornings with many vehicles and no sidewalks. Access from James St is difficult for students on bikes due to the heavy volume of traffic.
- There is an unmarked path from the BLT Trail to BLT SR, although the trail is not well maintained for daily use. This unmarked path is mainly on school property but also intersects with private property. Katie Sherren will reach out the BLT Trail committee to inquire about expanding the unmarked path to have an official connection between the BLT Trail and BLT SR.

SAC Chair Position Update:

Katie Sherren has been the SAC Chair for BLT SR and BLT JR for almost two years. The position has been offered to other members of the council. As no one is interested in this role, Katie Sherren will remain the SAC Chair.

SAC Membership:

Infographic has been created and shared with families to encourage more members to join the council.

SAC Meetings for 2025- 2026 School Year:

- October 6th, 2025
- November 3rd, 2025
- January 12th, 2026
- February 9th, 2026
- April 13th, 2026

- May 25th, 2026

* Meetings will take place in the cafeteria of BLT SR at 6PM unless otherwise communicated.