

BLT JR & BLT SR Elementary- School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 9th, 2026
Virtual Meetings

Attendance:

Present:

1) Katie Sherren	Chair/ Parent	BLT SR
2) Ms. Michelle Andrews	Principal	BLT SR
3) Ms. Tracey Quinn	Vice Principal	BLT SR
4) Mr. Albert Williams	Principal	BLT JR
5) Sarah Warfard	Parent	BLT JR & BLT SR
6) Amy Lowry	Parent	BLT SR
7) Ian Angus	Community Member	

Regrets:

1) Mrs. Cali Huczel	Vice Principal	BLT JR
2) Stephanie Brown	Parent	BLT SR
3) Karri Lynn Davidson	Parent	BLT SR
4) Ms. Christine Compton	Teacher	BLT JR
5) Mme. Comeau	Teacher	BLT JR

Call to Order:

6:00 PM, February 9th, 2026
Virtual Meetings

Principal Report from BLT SR (Ms. Andrews):

African Heritage Month:

- We've begun our African Heritage Quiz this week. Each class received bingo cards to participate, and a question is announced each morning during the school's announcements. The goal is for students to fill out their cards, and the first class to complete theirs will win a prize. Staff members received the answers in advance to support this activity.
- Jaden Dixon and the Little Legacy Leaders are preparing an assembly at the end of the month recognizing African Heritage month.

Fantastic Moments for January:

- We are continuing our "Fantastic Moments" program and have been collecting recognition for students who demonstrate positive behavior. These students are celebrated both in their classrooms and at our monthly assemblies. We continue to encourage staff to complete five Fantastic Moments for the month of January, with the certificates also being presented at our assemblies.

Grade 5 Ski Trip to Martock:

- Our Grade 5 students had a memorable and confidence-building experience during their ski trip to Martock in January. The trip was a great success, and the students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to develop new skills and create lasting memories on the slopes.

Professional Development on Equity & Culturally Responsive Practices (CRP):

- In January, we were able to offer 2 professional development sessions focused on equity and culturally responsive practices (CRP). This ongoing training supports our commitment to

inclusivity and helps staff continue to develop strategies that foster a welcoming and equitable environment for all students.

School Well-being Initiatives:

- Our school's well-being initiatives are continuing to thrive. The Leadership Group remains active in supporting positive change within the school, and students are regularly recognized through the Fantastic Moments program. Monthly assemblies help reinforce our School Matrix and celebrate student achievements.

Lockdown Drill - February 9-13:

- We are scheduled to conduct our second Lockdown Drill of the year during the week of February 9. Lockdown drills are a crucial part of our safety procedures. Staff will review the importance of the drill with students prior to the practice and remind them afterward that it is a rehearsal. Whenever possible, we partner with local police for these drills. Information on Lockdown and Hold and Secure procedures can be accessed on the HRCE website.

SSP Progress Update:

- Our ELST and Resource teams have completed the second-term Phonemic Assessments for our Grade 2 students, and we are pleased to report noticeable growth from the first to the second term. The number of students falling Below and Well Below benchmark has decreased, while more students are improving within the benchmark levels. For example, a student may still be Below benchmark, but they have moved from Well Below to Below, or their scores have improved significantly within the Well Below range.
- All students who scored Below benchmark are receiving targeted support and ongoing monitoring from our Resource and ELST teams.

Well-Being "Kindness Challenge":

- In alignment with our well-being and school matrix goals, we are running a "Kindness Challenge" for the next few weeks. Each week, students are given a challenge focused on kindness, such as caring for the school community, using good manners, and giving compliments to others. When teachers observe students meeting the challenge, they hand out heart-shaped tokens, which the students sign and return. These are then placed on a display in the lobby, with the hope of filling the case by week's end. If successful, the school will earn an extra recess on Monday. Different colored hearts are used for each grade, and split classes receive two colors. A slideshow has been shared with staff to support this initiative.

Well-Being Survey:

- A student well-being survey has been created for grades 2-3 and 4-5. Our goal is to have this completed before March Break.
- A sample of questions are "How do you feel about the following":
 - I feel safe when I am in my classroom.
 - I feel safe on the playground.
 - Adults at school help me when I have a problem.
 - Teachers are fair to me.
 - I can be myself at school.
 - I feel that my ideas are listened to.

**Discussion:* A concern was brought forward regarding the privacy of this survey. Ms. Quinn will involve tech support to ensure the surveys are anonymous. The plan is to use google to create the survey. The responses will be anonymous but may be narrowed down by grade or classroom. The

benefit of this is to be able to help any student who may enclose personal comments. The school has a wellness committee to follow up with the survey results and plan next steps towards making the school feel safe for all children.

Student Assessment and Report Cards

- March 13: Assessment and Evaluation Day
- April 1: Report Cards sent home
- April 2: Student led conferences

PTC Recruitment Update:

- A survey was sent home to those who expressed interest in volunteering, but we have received limited responses so far. Today, we followed up with those individuals, specifically asking if they would be interested in helping coordinate a Spring Fling.

Principal Report from BLT JR (Mr. Williams):

February Highlights:

- African Heritage Month
- Registration Month
- February 9-13: Lockdown Drill
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 16: Heritage Day
- February 17-20: Cultural Programming from Halifax Regional Arts

Breakfast Program:

- The Vegetarian provides us fresh fruit for our breakfast program, offering even more healthy choices to our students.
- In addition to the fresh fruit, we are expanding our breakfast offerings with new items such as yogourt tubes, cheese strings, trail mix, and a variety of other nutritious snacks. Students will continue to have daily access to these options as part of our commitment to supporting their health and well-being.
- We also want to extend our gratitude to the volunteers who help prepare the items for students each week and deliver them directly to the classrooms. Their continued support plays a vital role in ensuring the success of this program.

Clubs - New Library Club for Grade 1 Students:

- We are excited to announce the launch of a new Library Club, specifically for Grade 1 students! This club will run during lunchtime and provide a fun and engaging space for young readers to explore books, participate in storytelling activities, and develop a love for reading.

Halifax Regional Arts - African Heritage Month Programming:

- In celebration of African Heritage Month, we are excited to offer a variety of cultural programming that will focus on this year's theme: "*Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power, and Progress.*" This theme highlights the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and advancing with a shared sense of purpose.
- Throughout African Heritage Month, our schools will provide meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences. This month will be a

chance for us to deepen our understanding of our shared past, reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging, and honour the strength of unity that binds us all.

Assembly:

- The theme for our February assembly will be focused on community and unity, celebrating the strength that comes from coming together. Stay tuned for more details about the exciting cultural programming and activities we have planned to emphasize these important values.

Registration Updates:

- We continue to receive student registrations, and all relevant information will be forwarded to the local daycares to keep them informed and involved.

General Discussions:

- Will the school be offering the “Home Alone” course to grade 5 students this year? Yes, Ms. Jennie will teach this course to grade 5 students in May or June. This course is for children aged 10 and over that will be spending short periods of time home alone. This will help build confidence in our students.
- PTC Recruitment: There has been some interest shared with staff administration but currently we do not have enough volunteers to form a committee. More recruitment will be done, especially for planning the Spring Fair. Once a committee is formed, we may request help from Ridgecliff Middle School (Grade 9 students may help as part of their citizenship project) or Bay View High School students.

Next Meeting:

April 13th, 2026 at 6PM

Meeting adjourned:

6:39PM