

BLT JR & BLT SR Elementary- School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
October 5th, 2026

Attendance

Present:

1) Katie Sherren	Chair & Parent	BLT SR
2) Michelle Andrews	Principal	BLT SR
3) Jacinta Heckman	Vice Principal	BLT SR
4) Albert Williams	Principal	BLT JR
5) Christine Compton	Teacher	BLT JR
6) Karri Lynn Davidson	Parent	BLT SR
7) Amy Lowry	Parent	BLT JR & BLT SR
8) Malerie MacDonald	Parent	BLT JR
9) Kristen Baker	Parent	BLT JR & BLT SR
10) Jenny Benson Pratt	Parent	BLT JR
11) Emma Morris Smith	Parent	BLT JR

Regrets:

1) Ian Angus	Community Member	
2) Cali Huczel	Vice Principal	BLT JR

Call to Order

6:02 PM, October 5th, 2026
BLT SR Cafeteria

Principal Report from BLT SR (Ms. Andrews)

The beginning of the school year has been focused on establishing routines, building positive relationships, reinforcing school-wide expectations, and ensuring that our safety procedures are in place. We appreciate the continued support of our students, families, and staff as we work together to create a safe, respectful, and welcoming school community for everyone.

Student Safety and Arrival Procedures

Student safety remains our highest priority. With our growing student population and students arriving from both buildings, the bus loop will remain closed to non-designated vehicles during morning arrival. This helps ensure that buses and other designated vehicles can enter and exit safely and keeps traffic moving smoothly. Families are reminded to:

- Park only in designated areas on surrounding neighbourhood streets.
- Avoid stopping or parking in front of the school driveway, as this can block buses and other designated vehicles.

School Messaging about E-bikes and E-scooters

An email will be shared with families regarding electric scooters and electric bicycles. There has been an increase in students riding motorized vehicles to, from, and across school property. This brings many risks to students and staff. The following guidelines will be shared with families:

- Age Requirements: Under Nova Scotia provincial regulations, individuals must be at least 14 years old to operate an e-scooter, and at least 16 years old to operate an e-bike. Because our elementary students do not meet these age requirements, they should not be operating motorized scooters or e-bikes.

- **Helmet Safety:** For anyone riding standard bicycles or scooters, wearing an approved helmet is a requirement.
- **Walk, Don't Ride:** For the safety of pedestrians on our grounds, any wheeled transportation (including standard bikes and push-scooters) must be walked not ridden once on school property).

School Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The school has reviewed emergency procedures with staff. This includes procedures for fire drills, evacuations, lock downs, hold-and-secure situations, and relocation. The school has also developed an Emergency Management Plan and a Workplace Violence Prevention Plan.

Building Positive School Expectations

Our school has established an Expectation Matrix to help create consistent expectations for students across the school. Teachers and support staff are reviewing these expectations with students so that everyone has a clear understanding of what respectful, safe, and responsible behaviour looks like in different areas of the school.

School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

Families can access the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program, which provides nutritious lunches to students each school day. BLT SR now has a new kitchen making lunches efficiently. A breakfast program is also being offered to help ensure students have access to a healthy start to their school day.

Building Community and Raising Awareness

Friday, September 11- Wear pink to recognize Stand Up Against Bullying Day.

Tuesday, September 29- Truth and Reconciliation Day Walk

Tuesday, October 6- Terry Fox Walk

School Photos

School photos will take place over two days: Wednesday, October 7 and Thursday, October 8.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, November 10th at 10:30am. We are inviting military and retired military members to attend our event.

Holiday Concerts

December 7, 8 and 9 (More details will be shared with families in November).

PTC

A committee has been formed and had their first meeting. The first event will be at the end of October. A suggestion has been brought forward to have the VIP seating available for the holiday concert.

Student Success Plan- Literacy Action Cycle One

Action Steps

- Connect explicit phonics instruction (UFLI/ Son-au-graphe) to daily writing so students apply phonics patterns in encoding and sentence writing.
- Use assessment data and classroom observations to provide targeted small-group support, with a focus on writing and encoding.

How Are Students Doing?

- Reading benchmarks are stronger than writing performance, particularly in Grade 2 (LM3). UFLI and Son-au-graphe are supporting students' confidence with decoding and encoding unfamiliar words.
- Grade 2 Acadience screening (September 2026) showed improvement in nonsense word reading and oral reading fluency compared with the previous school year, indicating stronger application of phonics and decoding skills.
- Continued focus is needed on transferring these skills into written encoding and composition.

Student Success Plan- Math Cycle One

Action Step

- Teachers will use ongoing evidence and the Criteria for Determining Level of Success for Computational Fluency to identify student needs and inform instructional next steps.

How Are Students Doing?

- Fact fluency is improving by grade 5 - games are helpful and engaging
- Feelings about math are more positive & building more resilience in problem solving
- Greater confidence with number sense
- Routines - understanding the fact fluency block
- Using more math vocabulary

Student Success Plan- Well Being Cycle One

- Teachers will provide regular, culturally responsive opportunities for students to share their ideas, perspectives and experiences and will demonstrate how student voice informs the classroom community. Particular attention will be given to ensuring African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq/ Indigenous students have meaningful opportunities to contribute as individuals.
- Teachers will co-construct and regularly revisit expectations for kindness, respect and safety with students, using the school behaviour matrix and intentional teaching, modelling and positive reinforcement to strengthen respectful peer relationships.
- We hope to have a Student Equity Conference this year, it was a huge success last year.
- Our African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker runs a "Little Legacy Leader" Club.
- Teachers have been asked to not provide screen time during the lunch hour.

Principal Report from BLT JR (Mr. Williams)

Important Dates to Remember in October

Mi'kmaq History Month, Women's History Month & Canadian Library Month

October 1st: Treaty Day

October 5th: SAC Meeting

October 5th - 9th : Fire Drill

October 6th : Picture Day

October 12th: Thanksgiving (No classes)

October 23rd : NSTU Conference Day (No classes)

October 19th - 23rd : School Bus Safety Week

Student Success Plan- Term One Goals and Strategies

We have selected our school goals for Literacy, Math, and Student Well-Being. On Tuesday, October 6th, we will work together to discuss and select strategies for each goal for Term 1. These goals will help guide our teaching practices, support student growth, and ensure a positive, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all students.

Breakfast Programs

Students have access to breakfast bins every morning, ensuring they have an opportunity to start their day with nutritious food. Breakfast bins include a variety of healthy and filling options that are easy for students to access independently. This includes fresh fruit such as apples, oranges, plums, and pears. A variety of options are offered to accommodate different preferences and encourage students to make healthy food choices.

Thank you to the Spring Fair Committee

A very special thank you to our Spring Fair Committee for putting together such a wonderful event! We truly appreciate all the time, effort, energy, and dedication that went into planning and organizing the Spring Fair. From the thoughtful details to the fun activities and welcoming atmosphere, your hard work helped create a memorable experience for our students, families, and school community.

Safety Drills Update

Our Lockdown, Hold and Secure, and Fire Drills were successful. Overall, our students did a great job following directions, remaining calm, and demonstrating an understanding of our safety procedures. We will take time to reflect on the drills and discuss a few areas for improvement to help strengthen our procedures and ensure we are as prepared as possible for any situation.

Welcome to our New Team Members

- Deon Tomas has joined us as our new Administrative Assistant.
- Marie Aucoin has joined as our French Language Monitor. Marie will be supporting oral French language learning and will be shared with BLT SR, providing additional opportunities for students to engage with and develop their French language skills.

SAC Meeting Dates for 2026/2027 School Year

October 5th, 2026

November 2nd, 2026

January 11th, 2027

February 8th, 2027

April 5th, 2027

June 7th, 2027

General Discussions

- Mr. Williams has sent an email to families reminding them that there should be no pets brought onto school property.
- SAC Projects. We may decide as a group to pursue projects to benefit the school community.
- Each school receives \$5000 plus \$1 per student annually, to be decided among SAC on it's best use for the school.
- Additional grants may be accessed.
- Project started last year: we were hopeful to create a trail on school property to access the BLT Trail. This could improve active modes of transportation as well as create additional outdoor learning spaces. SAC Chair will create a summary of who was contacted last year and determine next steps to be shared with SAC members.

Meeting Adjourned

7:18 PM, October 5th, 2026