# Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Junior and Senior Elementary School

# School Advisory Council Agreement

**Duration of Agreement**

The purpose of this school advisory council agreement is to establish the terms of reference for the partnership between the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Junior and Senior (BLT) Elementary Schools, Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE), and the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to operate a School Advisory Council (SAC) at the school level.

**Effective date and review of the agreement:** The agreement begins when signed by all parties. The agreement shall be reviewed annually by the SAC before June 30 of each year. Any agreed-upon revisions can be made at that time and submitted to the HRCE and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for consideration, to become effective upon approval of all partners.

**Structure of the Council**

The membership should consist of:

* 4 staff members (3 teachers, at least 1 from each building and 1 support staff member)
* 4 parents:
  + two parent representatives from each school site
  + at least one parent representative whose child is enrolled in the French Immersion program
  + at least one parent whose child is enrolled in the English program.
* 4 community members
* Principals who are non-voting members

Names of the members of the BLT School Advisory Council and their respective years of service are detailed in an appendix to the bylaws.

**Decision Making Process**

Beechville Lakeside Timberlea School Advisory Council (SAC) will make decisions in the following ways:

* All decisions will be made by consensus where possible.
* If consensus cannot be reached, the subject may be deferred until the next meeting.
* If consensus cannot be reached, a majority vote is required of the quorum present.
* If there is a timeline within which a decision must be reached, an emergency meeting may be called by the chair of the (SAC) prior to the deadline.
* A quorum will be established when the meeting is called to order. A quorum will consist of a minimum of 50% + 1 of the voting members of the SAC.
* In addition, the principal or designate shall be present.

**Responsibilities**

**School Advisory Council commitments:**

The BLT School Advisory Council will be responsible for:

* providing all SAC members with a voice in decision-making
* working in collaboration with the principal and participating in efforts to improve student achievement and student and community well-being by receiving information on the school improvement plan and monitoring progress and improvements under the plan
* assisting in developing policies that promote student achievement and safe and inclusive schools
* developing strategies to improve and support the extracurricular programs and special projects of the school
* maintaining effective communication with parents/guardians by holding regular open meetings and making copies of agendas and minutes available upon request
* advising the principal and staff on any matters that are referred to the school advisory council by the principal, the regional centre or the Minister
* In accordance with the terms of the school advisory council agreement, determining priorities for spending the funds allocated to support the mandate of the school advisory council
* advising the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development or the Provincial Advisory Council on policy and other educational matters
* preparing an annual report in the form and containing the information determined by the Minister

**Regional Centre for Education commitments:**

HRCE will provide the following support to BLT School Advisory Council:

* providing a yearly professional development session reflective of the roles and responsibilities of the School Advisory Council
* providing a School Administration supervisor to assist the school council as required
* providing feedback to the council on the school improvement plan and the annual report
* providing opportunities to give input on regional centre for education policies and procedures, initiatives and communication
* arranging meetings between the Regional Executive Director of Education or designate and the school advisory council as required
* making available copies of Provincial and HRCE policies via the HRCE’s website
* providing mediation services when there is unresolved conflict between the school advisory council and the principal
* responding to advice/questions from the school advisory council

**Department of Education and Early Childhood Development commitments:**

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will support the BLT

School Advisory Council by:

* developing educational materials to assist school advisory councils in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities
* providing opportunities to give input on provincial policies and any other matters referred to the SAC by the Minister
* providing mediation when there is unresolved conflict between the school advisory council and the regional centre for education
* organizing and/or supporting professional development opportunities for council members
* providing funds to support the mandate of the school advisory council

**Parties To The Agreement**

We, the undersigned, understand and agree to follow through on the commitments made in this school advisory council agreement:

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BLT School Advisory Council Chair Date

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HRCE Regional Executive Director of Education Date

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Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Date