

BLT Jr & BLT Sr Elementary- School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Present:

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Katie Sherren       | Parent & Chair of SAC        |
| 2) Mr. Craig Myra      | Principal for BLT Sr.        |
| 3) Mrs. Janet Roy      | Acting Principal for BLT Jr. |
| 4) Mrs. Sarah Doxtater | English Teacher, BLT Sr.     |
| 5) Mrs. Cali Huczel    | French Teacher, BLT Sr.      |
| 6) Mrs. Erin Delaney   | French Teacher, BLT Sr.      |
| 7) Stephanie Brown     | Parent (BLT Sr.)             |
| 8) Debbie Isaacs       | Community Representative     |
| 9) Sarah Warford       | Parent (BLT Sr. & BLT Jr.)   |
| 10) Ian Angus          | Community Member             |

Regrets:

- |                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Mrs. Tracey Quinn   | Vice Principal for BLT Sr.        |
| 2) Ms. Patty Hoskin    | Acting Vice Principal for BLT Jr. |
| 3) Karri Lynn Davidson | Parent                            |
| 4) Tony Isaacs         | Community Member                  |

Call to Order:

6:05 PM, March 25, 2024  
BLT Sr. Cafeteria

BLT Jr Principal Report, Presented by Mrs. Janet Roy:

- Literacy Data- Term 2:

Grade/ Demographic	Meeting	Not Meeting
Primary English (85 Students)	74 (87%)	11 (13%)
Primary French (56 Students)	55 (98%)	1 (2%)
Grade 1 English (89 Students)	69 (78%)	19 (22%)
Grade 1 French (64 Students)	53 (83%)	11 (17%)
Grade P- ANS	16 (89%)	2 (11%)
Grade P- Ind	3 (100%)	0
Grade P- ANS/ Ind	0	0
Grade 1- ANS	15 (83%)	3 (17%)
Grade 1- Ind	7 (88%)	1 (12%)
Grade 1- ANS/ Ind	3 (100%)	0

- At our next TST meeting we will be discussing students who are not yet meeting, what current supports are in place and next steps to help them move towards meeting grade level benchmarks. This will include resource support, Early Literacy support, Reading Recovery and Tier 1 Literacy support in classrooms (Literacy support position just started March 25th)
- Culturally Relevant Pedagogy Specialist: Amanda Maher has been consulting with admin and working with staff. One of the goals we are working on is creating culturally responsive spaces for our students. Amanda and our Librarian conducted a survey to gain data about how

students view our library. Results will be shared during our April 4th PD. Amanda will also be facilitating our morning session on April 4th where we will be looking at believe systems and being a “warm demander” (term taken from Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain by Zaretta Hammond).

- We have been very fortunate to have a number of specialists from HRCE come in to support our students and staff with program planning for some of our students, classroom strategies and assistive technology. In the next few months, we are looking to welcome Literacy Coaches for both our English and French programs into our school.

BLT Sr Principal Report, Presented by Mr. Craig Myra:

- Student Success Planning
  - End of Term 2 Literacy Data (Measuring Against the End of TERM 2 Benchmark in Classroom Based Assessment System)

- Summary:

Grade/ Demographics	% Meeting in Feb	% Meeting in March
Grade 2 ENG	66%	74%
Grade 2 FI	53%	66%
Grade 3 ENG	51%	56%
Grade 3 FI (one class missing)	36%	48%
Grade 4 ENG	58%	61%
Grade 4 FI	36%	39%
Grade 5 ENG	44%	57%
Grade 5 FI	41%	41%

\*\*All students have showed improvement. Every cohort trending in the right direction.

- Responding to the data: April 4 th PD Day –

- Literacy- Analyzing and Planning Next Steps with Reading Assessment. Literacy consultants coming to school to facilitate the session.
- Mathematics – Incorporating Number Sense Routines and Fact Fluency into Daily Practice. Assessing for understanding to determine instructional focus. Three math coaches coming to support this session.
- Currently have 2 math coaches supporting 6 teachers. Have a French Immersion Math coaching coming next week to support 3 FI teachers.

- Short Cycle Planning for Literacy and Math Instruction– Term 3: Teachers and Students Criteria for Success Outlined Below:

- Teachers will create and share learning targets and success criteria with students for each lesson.
- Teachers will use the reading behaviours to identify what behaviours students have under control and where to teach next for each student. Teachers will use this information to plan next steps for instruction.
- Teachers will use observational grids to gather evidence of learning during whole class and small group instruction for specific strategies.
- Students will demonstrate an increase in reading behaviours.
- Students will share their understanding of the learning target for the lesson and where they are

in relation to these.

- Students will take an active role in their learning and grow as independent learners.
- Short Cycle Planning – Term 3 – for Student Well Being: Continuing to support student safety and well-being on the playground and during non-instructional times. Success Criteria for Teachers and Student Outlined Below:
  - Teachers, with the support of our school counselor, will provide targeted lessons to students to support problem solving and conflict resolution strategies
  - Teachers will use classroom meetings / circles to address playground expectations and problem solving / relationship building during unstructured times.
  - Staff will plan and lead clubs / teams during lunch / recess based on student interests.
  - Students will feel safer on the playground and during non instructional time
  - Students will solve conflicts, when they arise, using the strategies they learn in the classroom
  - Students will engage in less unacceptable behaviors on the playground
- Other:
  - African Heritage Month Assembly was a success, led by students.
  - Over 30 entries submitted for Delmore Buddy Daye African NS History Challenges
  - Kindness Challenge by Ridgecliff Middle School’s Leadership Team – Random Acts of Kindness throughout the building
  - Cheer Club and Soccer Club Starting, more to come
  - Pre-Planning for 24-25 School Year Started – expecting increased enrollment and increased allocation for student services with student who have special needs
  - Student Led Conferences April 4<sup>th</sup>

#### SAC Innovation Fund Grant Application, Presented by Katie Sherren:

- Introduction to the grant:
  - Up to \$10000 will be awarded to 4 schools within HRM
  - Grant is designed to support student achievement and well-being. It should be innovative and add value to the educational experience of students.
  - One application per school. BLT Sr & BLT Jr may each apply.
- Four ideas presented:
  - “Maker Cart” from Teacher Geek- possible for teachers to use the cart for education purposes, or for a STEM club.
  - “Sail Car Activity” (\$7.20/ unit from Teacher Geek)- possible to have race day within the school. We could dedicate the morning to building the sail cars, then have races within classrooms then have winners compete against other classrooms.
  - “Lunch time cart”- Have a dedicated bin of activities for children to use at lunch time to help with difficulties during unstructured time.
  - Fence with rock climbing- it could be used as an activity for children and also cover an area of our playground that may not be safe due to the state of current fences (owned by community members).
- Katie, Mr. Myra, and Mrs. Roy will continue conversations and complete the grant application form.

#### General Discussion:

- BLT Jr would like to build a Gaga ball course outdoors. They will discuss this with PTC.
- Location of bike racks and storage for scooters is difficult. We will brainstorm ideas.
- We will contact the local community center to see if they have any supplies to donate to the school that children may use during unstructured play time.

- There has been an increase in requirement of food from the breakfast program. We have funds to purchase fresh fruit which children access daily, as well as a large monthly donation of cereals, crackers, granola bars, etc.

Next Meetings Scheduled:

- April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6 PM, BLT Sr Cafeteria
- May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6 PM, BLT Sr. Cafeteria

Meeting Adjourned:

7:27 PM