



MEETING ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

*Donia Hafez, Karyn Mui, Stefanie Neale, Joanne McLean,
Kara Tse, Jhennel Young*

Attendees

Erin Hadleman, and Jacqueline Naismith

Staff Representation

*Annemarie Symchyshyn, Acting Principal
Emily Ali, Acting Vice Principal
Tania Verro-Matos, Teacher Rep*

Regrets

Mani Chams, Vanessa Gonzalez, Nia Khuong, Lisa Packwood, Bruno Palatto

2023/2024 Current Council Members

- **Co-Chairs:** Lisa Packwood, Stefanie Neale
- **Treasurer:** Kara Tse
- **Secretary:** Karyn Mui
- **Council Members:**
Nesreen Awad
Manal Chams
Vanessa Gonzalez
Donia Hafez
Nia Khuong
Joanne McLean
Heliasadat Tarjomani
Kara Tse
Jhennel Young
- **Note:** council members are required to attend each meeting (unless regrets are sent) to maintain quorum while voting on expenditures/actions.

Call to Order – 6:08 pm

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have travelled this area since time immemorial. This territory is within the lands honoured by the Wampum Treaties; agreements between the Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-e-naa-bay), Haudenosaunee (Hoe-den-oh-show-nee), Lenni (Len-eh) Lenape (Le-naw-pay) and allied Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy (Ojibwey (Oh-jib-way), Odawa (Oh-dah-wah), Potawatomi (Paw-taw-watt-oh-me) and Huron/Wendat (Wen-dat) Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Principal's Report – Mme Symchyshyn

Black History Month

February is Black History Month in Canada. It is a time to honour the contributions and rich legacy of Black Canadians and their communities. The GECDSB is pleased to acknowledge and celebrate the very important role that African Canadians have played in the cultural, political, social, and economic progress of our community, in the past and present, through our locally developed Roads to Freedom documents. There is also a student symposium coming up on **March 21st, 2024**, for Black students called Celebrating Black Joy – Black Excellence. More information will be released as it comes.

Environmental Stewardship/Waste Audit Findings

- North America is the worst contributor to waste in the world. Canada is worse per capital. On average, we produce 6 lbs per person per day.
- There are currently 805 active landfills in Ontario – 15 of them are considered Major and our regional landfill is one of those. That means we produce up to 4X more garbage than most areas

- Ontario produces around 12 million tonnes of waste a year (size is 12 million full grown male moose)
- In Ontario, if we don't make changes, we will be out of landfill space by 2034
- Many landfills have been approved for expansion, including Windsor and Blenheim. More than half of the expansion is coming to our area
- In Canada, we overshoot our resources by March 13th every year. As a planet, we overshoot by mid-August

The Board did waste audits in 10 schools this past year and found the following three areas where we can improve (Poster is attached following minutes)

Technology Update

We are in the process of adding twenty more Ipads into distribution in the school. These are Ipads that we have purchased to help augment the collection, as well as replace outdated Ipads that we have here at Bellewood.

Kindergarten Open House

- Wednesday, February 21 st 5-7 p.m.
- Kindergarten Registration officially runs from February 20 – March 1, but we have already had a few families register
- Word of mouth is the best way to promote our school – please continue to share positive information about Bellewood in the community

Mental Health

Mental Health, Well-being and Engagement continues to be a Board and school priority. Current statistics show that 20% of students in Ontario ages 4-17 have significant mental health struggles (meet the criteria for diagnosis), which means the number is probably higher. There have been modules for grades 7-8 and will be for other grades in the future. The Board is developing a Three-Year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, with representation from several staff members. This work is not silent – it is alongside all the equity and inclusion work that is also being done.

Solar Eclipse

Monday, April 8th, 2024 is the solar eclipse. Schools will be open, and transportation will run in the morning. We will be **dismissing at 1 p.m.** and there will be **NO transportation** at that time. All extracurricular activities will also be cancelled. The eclipse will be from 1:57pm - 3:17pm. We will plan where/how students will be picked up that day and communicate it to you.

Follow-up from last month

SWAG – Mme Tessier is organizing this, and the link will be sent home some time this week or next week

Vice Principal's Report – Mme. Ali

January has been a very busy month here at Ecole Bellewood. Our students are involved in so many different things and our staff continues to work hard to ensure that exciting things are happening!

- Our January character assembly focused on the character trait of honesty. In celebrating our students' character development, we also had the opportunity to celebrate their various accomplishments in Math while recognizing our KnowledgeHook Mathalon winners.
- Swim to Survive continued throughout the month for some of our grade 3 classes.
- Basketball Season is underway for both the boy's and the girl's teams. Although we have not earned any victories, yet our teams have been successful in demonstrating resiliency and good sportsmanship.
- Many presentations have happened this past month. Notably, Youth Diversion came to present to our grade 5 and 6 students to help them understand more about online safety. BANA also came to do a Self-Esteem and Body Image presentation for our grades 6-8 students and a Healthy eating presentation for our EY classes.

- Sandwich Secondary School's guidance team visited to present to our grade 8's to help them in preparation for the transition to grade 9 and to give them the inside scoop on what Sandwich Secondary has to offer and course selections.
- Mr. Guthrie, Math consultant from our program department at the Board Office, was at Bellewood last week working with three different junior classes to get them started on using Ozobots. This is an awesome little piece of technology that allows students to actively engage in coding.
- We recognized 'Sweater Day' on **February 1st**. On this day, temperatures in many of our GECDSB buildings were turned down by 2 degrees to raise awareness about climate change and energy conservation and to show that together we can be a part of the solution.
- The grade 8's are selling candy grams this week to our students for 75 cents each. Students can buy these during their nutrition breaks. There are little heart cards that students have been filling out to accompany their candygrams that will be distributed next week.
- EY students will be going on a field trip to Forest School
- Science Fair Kick-Off happened last week. Students in grades 7-8 were given the requirements for the project that will be completed during their own time and featured in a science fair come the Spring. This is an optional program for students to participate in.
- Looking forward to what is upcoming in February, we have:
 - o Report Cards going home **February 12th**.
 - o Wear red for friendship Spirit Day on **February 14th**
 - o Parent-Teacher Conferences on **Thursday, February 15th from 3:30-6:00 PM**
 - o P.D. Day on **February 16th**
 - o Family Day Holiday on **Monday, February 19th (No School)**
 - o **February 28th**: Pink Shirt Day for Bullying Prevention and Intervention.
On this day, our chess club members will also be competing in a tournament.
 - o Carnival is coming on the last day of the month, **Thursday, February 29th**! An exciting chance for Bellewood to celebrate French-Canadian culture.

The school has purchase a Bonhomme de Neige costume as it has always been hard to obtain one during the Carnival times as other school want it as well.

Teacher's Report – Mme Matos

100 days of school (Grade 1)

Carnaval event – Tim Horton's to co-sponsor hot chocolate for the event. Willing to pay half and asking PIC to pay for the other half. Total amount is \$ 440.70 PIC will have to cover.

Voting to pass the hot chocolate for Carnaval event will be posted on Edsby.

Treasurer's Report

Fundraising – \$313

School council grants 1424.08

Food - \$4730

Kara Tse has volunteered to step into the role of Treasure.

Pro Grant: Wellness Fair event – April 24h, 2024

- Hours for the Wellness fair: 6pm to 8pm
- Gather a list of vendors/partners interested in taking part of the event
- RSVP survey for attendance
- Guest speaker options.
 - o 4 speakers 20-30 mins speaking and then can mingle with crowd for questions etc.

- 2 main speakers 45 min per speaker
- Other alternatives? Suggestions?
- Karyn's guest speakers currently: (you can see them on Instagram to see their profile)
 - Heather Chauvin - @ heatherchauvin
 - Kristi Simons - @confidentteenteacher
 - Dr. Adrienne DeLuca - @ Adrienne.deluca.nd – health & nutrition
- Meditation sessions with sound bowls– 10 min intervals provided over the 2 hr period
- Teams meeting March 7th, 2024 to see how many vendors etc we have.

Other discussions:

Coffee fundraiser - will be school cash online ONLY

- Notices/Flyer will be sent home February 12th, 2023
- School cash online will open as of February 12th until February 25th, 2024 (at midnight)
- Reminder email sent out February 23, 2024
- Numbers to be sent to Muskoka Roastery Coffee Co by March 1st, 2024
- Delivery date TBA – Pick up @ school, sometime after March break
- Mme Matos will help organize order
- Sample table will be set up at Parent teacher Interview night for parents to try. Muskoka Roastery Coffee Co provided PIC with 2 1lb bags of Black Bear and Loon Cal

Spring Market event – May 2nd, 2024 (during school hours)

- Organizer will coordinate set up and take down with vendors.
- Insurance will be purchase by the organizer to cover the event.
- Organizer Christine will be sending over posters to post around school and an electronic copy to post on edsby.
- All local vendors 30+ vendors
- All items at the market will be \$15 or under
- PIC to come up with what they want to do/sell to generate more funds at the event. Ie popcorn sales
- Free gift wrapping will be provided by PIC
- Each table rental will cost \$40, \$20 will be given to PIC for each table rental
- School messenger reminder to be sent out to parents 1 week before event and the day before event, so they can send cash with kids to school.
- Any interested parents/vendors who would like to take part, please contact Christine directly @ keepinghopelocal@hotmail.com This will be posted on Edsby.

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly of Social Media & Your Kid

- Flyer to follow the minutes.
- PIC interested in hosting this event at Bellewood.
- Will discuss at next meeting to see when is the appropriate time

Last months minutes – **posted on edsby for voting.**

As Always:

- Parent Involvement Committee meetings are **open to any parent/guardian any time**. Please feel welcome to join us to learn more about Bellewood activities and bring your fresh opinions.
- If families have any questions regarding Covid Guidelines or school protocols, please contact the main office (M. Pallotto or Mme. Symchyshyn) or the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (wechu.org) or the Greater Essex County District School Board website <https://www.publicboard.ca> for reliable and current guidelines.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm

Next meeting: Monday, April 8th, 2024 at 6:00pm in Library

PIC Chair Contact Info: bellewoodparents@gmail.com