



Meeting Attendance

Attendees:

Yathindra Dissanayake, Donia Hafez, Nia Khuong, Tommoy Majumdar, Joanne McLean, Karyn Mui, Jacqueline Naismith, Stefanie Neale, Annam Naz Sheriff, Kara Tse and Jhennel Young

Staff Representation:

Bruno Pallotto, Principal
Joseph Roy, Vice Principal
Tania Verro-Matos, Teacher Rep

Regrets:

Manal Chams, Erin Haldeman

2023/2024 Current Committee Members

- **Co-Chairs:** Donia Hafez & Stefanie Neale
- **Treasurer:** Kara Tse
- **Secretary:** Karyn Mui & Jhennel Young
- **Council Members:**
Nesreen Awad
Manal Chams
Erin Haldeman
Jacqueline Haismith
Nia Khuong
Tommoy Majumdar
Joanne McLean
Jhennel Young
- **Note:** council members are required to attend each meeting (unless regrets are sent) to maintain quorum (7) while voting on expenditures/actions.

Call to Order – 6:06 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), Leni (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 – Mr. Pallotto:

Term 1 Report Cards & Parent-Teacher Conferences

Term 1 report cards were sent home today with students.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be taking place this Thursday, February 13th from 3:30- 6:00pm at Ecole Bellewood. Please schedule an interview time (10min interviews) with your child's teachers utilizing EDSBY. Parents may also choose to contact the school to set-up the interview if necessary and/or if requesting access to EDSBY. If you are unavailable to meet with your child's teacher the evening of February 13th (or timeslots are full), we encourage you to send an Edsby message directly to the teacher requesting an alternate date to meet. Thank you for your continued partnership supporting your child's education!

Lost & Found

We encourage all families to visit the Lost & Found area (located in the hallway adjacent to the library) to collect lost items including coats, sweaters, gloves, etc. the evening of Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Kindergarten Registration

All parents/guardians are encouraged to register their child for Junior Kindergarten for September 2025 utilizing the registration link: <https://www.publicboard.ca>

Kindergarten Open House on Wednesday, February 19 th from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
-opportunity to showcase Ecole Bellewood French Immersion learning community and everything that make us special!

Kindergarten Posters and view Kindergarten video – promoting Bellewood school!

Professional Activity Day on Friday, February 14, 2025

**Reminder No School for Students

All staff at Bellewood will engage in a presentation from Novak on the Practical Strategies for Implementing Universal Design for Learning. Every educator’s path to UDL implementation looks and feels different, as there are hundreds of strategies that align well with the UDL framework. There are some common best practices often used during the beginning of implementation that can help move the process of implementation along. This professional learning will help educators with moving implementation forward by diving into some high leverage strategies that will get the UDL wheels turning and will help make learning experiences more equitable and inclusive.

According to Public Health Ontario, approximately 1 in 4 high school students in the province currently vape, with many children experimenting with vaping at a very early age. This professional learning course presented to all staff is designed to equip educators with the knowledge and tools needed to address this growing concern of vaping among students. The comprehensive modules will cover the basics of vaping, the associated health risks, ways to support youth who may be vaping, and the laws surrounding vaping in Ontario and in schools. Additionally, educators will learn vaping-related lingo, reasons why kids vape, signs that a student might be vaping, and the financial consequences of vaping over time. The course also encourages the use of refusal skills and highlights curricular expectations about vaping across various grade levels.

Elementary staff will also participate in deeper learning around Cyber safety & Online privacy to address issues connected to technology use and student safety including professional learning on potential risks from student use of online platforms and new technologies.

Reaching Ahead Summer Learning Program 2025

Grade 8 to Grade 9 – this is an amazing opportunity for every student to earn their first Secondary School credit and transition into their high school during July 2025.

Highly recommended for every grade 8 student regardless of Secondary School attending.

Registration for this course opens in April and runs until the end of May.

<https://www.publicboard.ca/en/programs-and-learning/grade-8-students.aspx>

Dr. Todd Cunningham Parent Session

You are welcome to join other GECDSB parents/guardians for an enlightening session with Dr. Cunningham, a Psychologist and Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, focusing on student success through mental

health awareness, self-perception, and inclusive educational practices. Dr. Cunningham is renowned for his expertise in supporting students with learning difficulties, specializing in psychological assessments, intervention strategies, and assistive technology. He is a board member of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario and has significantly contributed to the national guidelines for diagnosing and assessing learning disabilities. We warmly invite new GECDsB families, Kindergarten, Grade 1 and RISE program families to attend this event. This parent/caregiver session is part of the ongoing professional development for our staff, which includes exploring best practices with Universal Design for Learning, understanding student needs, transitioning students from modifications to intervention and accommodated practices, and addressing mental health and self-perception in the classroom. Register by visiting publicboard.ca

French Immersion GECDsB Program Review

As you may know, enrolment in French Immersion programs across our district are declining. In light of this, the Greater Essex County District School Board Senior Administration Team has decided to move the current Marlborough French Immersion program to Bellewood Public School effective September 2025.

It must be noted that this decision was necessary due to the declining French Immersion enrolment at Marlborough Public School.

Effective September 1, 2025, all French Immersion program students at Marlborough Public School will attend Bellewood Public School.

This is wonderful news for the Ecole Bellewood community of learners!

Vice Principal's Report – Mr. Roy

Equity Updates

Rationale:

Bellewood's school improvement goal is to enhance student well-being, inclusivity and a sense of belonging.

Actions Taken:

Bellewood GSA Student Voice:

Bellewood's GSA has been working hard on designing a landscape for the Learning Commons area. They have decided to select one image to represent each colour of the Rainbow Flag. (Red-Life, Orange-Healing, Yellow-Sun/Energy, Green-Nature, Turquoise-Art/Magic, Blue-Serenity/Harmony, Purple-Spirit) and one image to represent people of colour, transgender people, people affected by HIV/AIDs as well as the intersex people. This will be a teaching tool for students but will be utilized at age-appropriate times.

Refresh Committee:

The themes of inclusivity, connectedness, diversity and nature were given to four selected Grade 8 students, one representing each Grade 8 class, to create a permanent art piece for the Learning Commons area to be completed as a Legacy Project for the Grade 8s. M. De Laronde is building the frame and M. Roy is teaching the students how to stretch canvas.

They will also be making a banner for the Multicultural Fair using all of the flags of the world.

EAST Initiatives:

Two teachers worked with our Equity Consultant for Black History and co-created some lessons for their classes.

M. Mugabo worked on making a special presentation for our Grade 7-8 students called *Voices for Change: Building an Inclusive and Equitable School Community*. Students were asked to create powerful and informative posters that raises awareness about the importance of human rights, equality, justice, and inclusion, specifically in relation to issues like bullying and intimidation, while exploring Black History and Contributions in Canada, the U.S., and our local community.

Student Leadership made announcements daily and created a Black History Scavenger Hunt.

Ramadan Valise and Jewish Heritage Valise was shared by our EAST Representative to the school.

Create Your Future:

The Create Your Future (CYF) program is for racialized student support. They assist with academics, social/emotional support, attendance and transitions. The CYF advisors came to Bellewood and we have increased student participants in the program and continue to do so.

Caring and Safe Schools Update

Ball Strike Prevention Committee:

Mapped out the blacktop to be painted in red, yellow and green zones. We will also repaint the games painted on the blacktop (i.e. 4-Square as well as the running long jump). We also create sitting zones and add places for the students to sit on the blacktop as well as benches between the school yard and the Kiss-n-Ride area to create a natural barrier to the parking lot.

Map of Caring Adults at Bellewood:

Focus groups were conducted for the students that did not identify a trusted adult to find out more about the students understanding of trust and trusted adults. We also asked the students what would stop them from accessing trusted adults and why they didn't identify a trusted adult. Themes included fear, snitching, not feeling comfortable and only talking to parents.

Teachers were given the opportunity to examine the feedback and provide their own feedback about their practices for encouraging/reinforcing students' access to Trusted Adults at Bellewood.

Shared 5 questions with PIC to gather some parent/caregiver voice about their child's experiences with Trusted Adults at Bellewood.

Science Fair

Grade 6-8 students will be having their school Science Fair on March 19, 2025. We have some parent volunteers coming in to assist with judging. The students will have the opportunity to practice on their peers and parents/caregivers before being judged at the end of the day. The Regional Science Fair is at St. Clair College on April 12th. We will send 20 students to compete and only Grade 7-8 students are eligible for the National competition.

The school board Science Consultant will be coming to help the students kickstart their ideas as we have many students that are interested in participating.

Teacher's Report – Mme Matos:

Grade 8 – selling candy grams and selling chocolate bars to fundraising for excursion.
Chess club has started.
Basketball doing well.
February month focus is on kindness – student celebration
Carnaval – planning on the way. Email has been sent out for volunteers
Multicultural night – actively preparing. Flyers will come out after Carnaval ** tentative May 8th

Treasurer's Report:

Food: \$3980.17
Fundraising: \$ 1876.25
Grants: \$ 831.68
Total: \$ 6688.10

Items still pending to be taken from account:

29 teachers left needs to use allotted class fund by April. (29 x \$120) \$3480
Multicultural contributions of \$500
Remaining estimated balance of \$3000

Other discussions:

January minutes have been approved and posted.
Currently PIC has voting membership 12. Unfortunately, 2 members have step down. The revised quorum is now 7.
Welcome new member and bison!

Battle of the Bisons – Family game night - Thursday April 10th, 2025, 5:30pm – 7:30 pm
Name has been voted.
Budget of \$1000 for event however \$300 from previous grant money can be used if required.
PIC to reach out to What's Popping for booth and donations for gift baskets.
The puzzle art – how is Bellewood a family – theme to decorate the puzzle

Pita Pit (PIC food fundraising) – we are hoping to start beginning in April for both pita and smoothies' sales with cash online. Contact Jhonny for pricing and will coordinate with McKenzie for dates.

New Business: No new business.

Next meeting: Tuesday April 1st, 2025 @ 6pm

PIC Chair Contact Info: **bellewoodparents@gmail.com**

Meeting adjourned @ 7:26