

# École Bellewood - Parent Involvement Committee

## MEETING MINUTES -- Monday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023



### MEETING ATTENDANCE

#### Voting Members

*Nia Khuong*  
*Stefanie Neale*  
*Vanesa Alonso Gonzalez*  
*Donia Hafez*  
*Joanne McLean*  
*Dr. Zhenzhong Ma*

#### Attendees

*Kara Tse*

#### Staff Representation

*Bruno Pallotto*  
*Annemarie Symchyshyn*  
*Tania Verro-Matos*

#### Regrets

*Yasmine Joheir*

#### Reference: 22/23 Current Committee Members

- Acting Chair – Stefanie Neale
- Treasurer – Yasmine Joheir
- Acting Secretary – Dr. Zhenzhong Ma
- Council Members (5) – Joanne McLean, Nia Khuong, Zia Waseer, Vanesa Alonso Gonzalez, Donia Hafez,
- Note: council members are required to attend each meeting (unless regrets are sent) to maintain quorum while voting on expenditures/actions.

### Call to Order – 6:10 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.

### May 2023 – Meeting Minutes Approval

- *Motion – Dr. Ma*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> – Donia*
- *All approved, none opposed*

### Principal's Report – M. Pallotto

- **Thank you to all Parent Involvement Committee Members**

-for your support of education and partnership this year supporting student learning, extra-curricular opportunities and community events!

On behalf of all Bellewood Teachers and staff, we hope you enjoy this dinner as a token of our appreciation for your time and dedication throughout this school year.

We hope you will all decide to join PIC once again next year.

- **School Organization 2023-2024**

31 Homeroom Classes

-down from 33 homeroom classes this year due to student enrolment.

This is largely due to the boundary changes made several years ago here at Bellewood.

Staffing has not yet been completed at this time. Our entire staff compliment (including ECE's and Educational Support Staff) has not been finalized for next year.

- **Teacher Changes 2023-2024**

Good bye and good luck to the following Teachers: Mme Dupuis, Mme Morris and M Zanotti!

A very heartfelt thank you to Mme Dupuis, Mme Morris and M Zanotti for their dedication as valued educators! On behalf of the students, families and entire Ecole Bellewood community we are grateful that you have touched and inspired the lives of so many students!

Each of you will always be a Bison and a member of our Ecole Bellewood family! 😊

Welcome to Ecole Bellewood Mme Ali – joining us next year teaching in the Intermediate Division!

Mme Ali is an experienced educator currently at Tecumseh Vista Immersion. We have heard many comments that she is an exceptional teacher with high integrity and commitment towards education.

- **Report Cards**

Term 2 Report Cards will be sent home with students on the last day of school, Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

We hope you take the opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements and learning this year!

- **Tentative Class Lists & Visiting Next Year's Teacher**

Class Lists have been completed for next year. Homeroom classes are balanced to ensure a positive learning environment for every student.

On the last day of school, Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup>, students will have an opportunity to visit their teacher for next year and meet their future classmates.

**Please Note:** All homeroom class lists and homeroom teachers is **TENTATIVE** until Reorganization Day on Monday, September 25, 2023.

Based on student enrolment, it may be necessary to move students and/or reorganize homeroom classes.

- **Flying the Pride Flag**

During the month of June, all GECSB schools and locations are flying the Intersex-Inclusive Progressive Pride Flag. Flying the Pride Flag is a symbol that Ecole Bellewood is a safe and inclusive school for everyone.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.publicboard.ca/en/news/pride-month-2023-a-message-from-the-director-of-education.aspx>

## Vice Principal's Report – Mme. Symchyshyn

- A lot of great activities have continued to happen – field trips (Early Years – Colasantis, grade 2s to Ojibway, grade 3s to Swim to Survive, grade 4s to Hillman Marsh, grades 5 to Gesstwood Camp, grades 6 to Windsor Squash and Fitness, grades 7 to Fort Malden, grade 8s to Niagara Falls) and special events (grades 1 having a family picnic) and presentations (Bee City for the grade 1s, Environmental Stewardship for grades 1-5, Sustainability Presentation for the grade 8s)
- Mme Tonello and Mme Prantera have been very busy and dedicated to the track team. They ran our school track meet at Vista early May and are taking 121 students to Riverside for the Regional meet on Wednesday. They also have organized several staff members to assist with practices – Mme McCullough, Mme Desjarlais, Mme Kamrock, Mme Varsava, Mme Matos, Mme Badalamenti, Mme Morris, Mme Tousignant. Depending upon how students do on Wednesday, some students will be attending the District meet on June 14th
- Mme Chortos, Mme Desjarlais, Mme McMahon and Mme Lanoue are coaching the softball team. Their tournament is Saturday, June 10th at Co-An Park in McGregor
- Our Welcome to Kindergarten was Tuesday, May 30th – we had 33 students visit, 13 of whom hadn't come to the Open House. We had two Public Health nurses here, who were giving out resources to families, as well as an OT

from John McGivney and each student received a Welcome to Kindergarten bag that had been provided by the Canadian Education Warehouse. We currently have 55 students registered for JK for Sept

- Pride month is happening during June. At the end of May we had 4 students accompany Mme McMahon to the GSA Conference at Ciociaro, which was organized by the Board. Members of the GSA were invited to be a part of the flag raising on June 1st and 7 students, as well as 3 parents participated in that, as well as Mme McMahon, Mme Donlon and Mme Masse and her baby! At the meeting afterwards, students shared what having the Pride flag up means for them. Several students mentioned that it means that everyone is welcome and included at this school. One said, "You don't have to be scared of who you are or who you want to be, you can be open about it." Another talked about how some of them have supportive families but others don't, and added this at the end, "I think it's really important to have a flag up and a supportive environment at school because then at least that student or staff member can know that even if they are not accepted at home, they have a safe space at their workplace or school." GSA has announcements planned for Wednesdays, where they will talk about allyship and has a rainbow day coming up, probably next week
- Bison Fest (Music Festival) is being organized by Mr. Zanotti for Tuesday, June 20th. There will be two assemblies during the day and families are invited to join from 4-5:30 p.m. outside
- The Board is offering the Summer Learning Program again for grade 2 and 3 students. We have 14 students from Bellewood attending at either Brock or Herman and Mme DeLuca has been very helpful in getting that organized. She will also be one of the SLP teachers
- In preparation for secondary school, grade 8s have had a few transition activities. Students from both Massey and Sandwich came and did activities and shared information about high school with our grads. Grade 8 graduation is Thursday, June 22nd at Ciociaro

### Teacher's Report – Mme Matos

- Special thank you to PIC and parent volunteers all year long for their partnership and fundraising efforts
- Bison Fest – M. Zanotti sends his notes – bring chairs and sunscreen, water bottles. School will be open.

### Treasurer's Report

\$ 3715.03 balance at end of May

Activity since last report:

- Classroom Contributions
- Some items to be finalized and the report will be updated.

Final budget to be reviewed at close of June

### PRO Grant – STEAM Night

- STEAM Night was a resounding success. There was a great turnout from the Bellewood families with many providing much needed feedback on both the event and PIC in general. Those that expressed interest in PIC will be contacted personally in the fall.

### End of Year / Spring Concert

- PIC participation to be finalized;
  - Sweet Wheels mobile vendor
  - Other food truck?
  - Giant bubbles, photo booth, PIC table, help with general store sales, misc event help...

- Motion to spend up to \$500 to provide refreshments at Bison Fest
  - *Motion – Nia*
  - *2<sup>nd</sup> – Joanne*
  - *All approved, none opposed*

### EQAO

- Remainder of snacks needed week of June 5th....Grade 6 – Donia and Nia

### Teacher Appreciation

- Ideas to show our gratitude to the teachers: Pita Pit, Oven 360
- 61 staff including office staff and custodians

### New Business

- Increasing volunteers for next year
  - Calling interested parents
  - Reviewing bi-modal meetings, or alternating nights
- Cultural Project for next year...brainstorm idea to invite families to share their stories and compile into a living/growing book of Bellewood

### 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](http://wechu.org)) or the Greater Essex County District School Board website <https://www.publicboard.ca> for reliable and current guidelines.

### Meeting Adjourned 7:26pm

Acting PIC Chair Contact Info:

Stefanie Neale – [bellewoodparents@gmail.com](mailto:bellewoodparents@gmail.com)