



Beaver Bank Monarch Elementary School School Advisory Council

Meeting: February 9th, 2026

In Attendance: Chelsea Foley, Wendy Bell, Erin McInnis, Blair MacDonald, Billy Gillis, Lyndsay Graham

Meeting Auditors: Mandy Savoie, Madisyn MacDonald

Regrets: Brendon MacGillivray

Meeting called to order at 3:13 pm, Minutes approved by Blair

4. Business arising from the meeting minutes:

- **Operations Update:** Status of the "Pooling Water" issue outside primary classrooms (waiting on Operations). Ongoing concern. Remediation attempts have been unsuccessful to date.
- Follow-up - Outcomes from HRCE Operations Guest (Geoff Olsson) regarding the playground:
 - Preliminary stages have begun. HRM workers have been out to review the playground areas and take some initial measurements.
 - In the tender stage.
 - Our focus is now on fundraising efforts and ways in which we can contribute to the project
 - Student and staff ideas have been submitted for possible inclusion in the project

5. Principal's Report

- **Student Success Planning (SSP):** Updates on Literacy, Math, and Well-being goals.
 - **Literacy:**
 - All mid-year Acadience screener assessments have been completed in P-5
 - Follow up CORE diagnostic assessments were then completed to pinpoint specific individual needs where required
 - **Reading:**
 - Results of the screener indicated there has been growth across grade levels and provided specific next steps for classrooms and individuals
 - Results also supported our ELST small group and Tier 1 support selections as well as our Resource caseload decisions for Term 2 in Grades 3-6.
 - **Writing:**
 - **Book Club** - Held first meeting of our own professional book club centered on the text *Powerful Writing Structures* by Adrienne Gear at the end of January

- 10 teachers will be meeting 1x/month with ELST team to discuss student writing and plan interventions and next steps
- using this text in conjunction with The Syntax Project to support literacy instruction
- our literacy goal in term 2 shifts its focus toward writing.
- o **Math:**
 - Math Coach Support Teacher started in our building last week. Stephanie Bellefontaine from the HRCE Math team will be working with several teachers over the next 6 week cycle
 - she will help support our whole school focus around computational fluency in Term 2 SSP
 - Already begun work in identifying where our students are on their journey towards expected computational fluency outcomes by grade level
 - working with the coach and admin to further build and strengthen knowledge and practices in this area
- o **Well-Being:**
 - **Grant Exploration:**
 - Specialist staff will begin sifting through some locally/provincially available grants to identify possible funding sources that could be used to support our upcoming playground project in conjunction with HRM
 - **Breakfast Program:**
 - We recently received a \$2000 grant from the Beaver Bank Fire Department to further support our efforts in providing this program. Big thank you to them!
- **Operations & Staffing:** Updates on the shared ECE position and general school operations.
 - o Received an increase in ECE allocation, adding an additional support ECE teacher that is shared between the two PP classrooms. This has been in place since mid-October. Also had a 4th ECE supporting in PP on a temporary basis throughout December to support programming.
 - o Received communication from ECE lead team that BBMD would be hosting a student ECE teacher from NSCC beginning later this week.
 - o Teaching staff are currently mentoring 3 student teachers and we have welcomed 2 co-op students in recent months (1 in PP and 1 in Grade 4).
 - o Currently have 3 long term substitute teachers in the building. Being supported by co-staff, admin, specialists, and coaches to bridge the transition and support consistency of routines, procedures, and expectations in the classroom while permanent teacher is away from the building.
 - o Parking Lot Safety Concern- Parent concern received about parking lot safety. Relayed concern to HRCE Operations team who referred us to HRM. Also connected with community police to increase patrols during arrival and dismissal times to help reinforce no stopping/no parking zones and support student safety. Patrol officer has further shared school concerns with community team that meets regularly to discuss such challenges. Awaiting follow up.

- **Cross-Cultural / Events:** Updates on recent or upcoming spirit events (e.g., Spirit Week, Heritage Month).
 - **Holiday Concert:** Held our P-5 holiday concert before holiday break. Great deal of effort put in by Ms. Tyndall, supporting staff and students to bring the event together. Many logistical things that needed to happen in order to accommodate our large student body but it all came together and the event was well received by students and families.
 - **Literacy Week:** Held Jan. 26-30- Despite impact of snow day we still had a fun week of learning and celebrated with a number of activities- Barbara Reid honorary chair- read her books and many students spent time working to emulate her trademark illustration techniques using plasticine as a medium to create their own works of art. Also enjoyed reading in the dark with flashlights and friends, making note of positive words/phrases on student clothing, and welcomed a large contingent of parents, grandparents, and siblings to our Family Literacy day event- a wonderful afternoon sharing stories together in the gym.
 - **February is Registration Month-** if you know anyone with a little one aged for PP or Primary and/or moving to the area, encourage them to register. All registration is done online. This information directly impacts our staffing.
 - **Fundraising Committee-** Advertised that we were looking into forming a school fundraising committee to specifically support playground project- no one has taken us up on this yet.

6. New Business

7. Finance

- **Review of Grant Balances & motion to use remaining funds to support playground project:**
 - SSP Grant (\$1,300) - some funds used to support planning
 - Health Promotion (\$1,300) – will use some to pay for guest speaker during Feb if confirmed
 - SAC Grants (\$5,600) - a bit in the red coming out of 2024-25
 - Healthy School Grant (\$5,600) - untouched
 - Student Support Grant (\$5,600) – untouched
- **SAC Fund Requests:** Review and voting on the "Two Requests" noted in December.

8. Special Reports and/or Presentations

9. Other:

Photography Update- Pineapple Studios delivered school canvas and class photos last week. Canvas to be mounted on the way outside Library. Class photos to be distributed to families this week.

School Clothing Update: Online store has been created and is almost ready to be launched. Waiting to confirm a few final details from the clothing company and hope to share the link with families soon.

Share- [SAC Member Feedback & Question Form](#)

10. Closing

- **Next Meeting Date:** April 13, 2026.
- **Adjournment: 4:15PM**