

Beaver Bank Monarch Elementary School

School Advisory Council

MINUTES: December 8th, 2025



In Attendance: Blair MacDonald, Lyndsay Graham, Erin McInnis, Wendy Bell, Kathryn Arseneau, Chelsea Foley, Brendon MacGillivray, Emily LaFleur (student teacher)

Regrets: Bill Gillis, Ed Thompson (connect with Ed by phone to see if he is still interested in being a community member of our SAC)

DISCUSSION ITEMS	Minutes
Call to order:	Meeting started at approximately 3:08
Approval of agenda:	Agenda was approved by Blair MacDonald.
Minutes	Following introductions, Geoffrey Olsson shared the process for the playground replacement/upgrades and then, the Principal shared the Principal's Report with members of the SAC.
Principal's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting Dates• Opening• Updates	<u>Updates:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Student Success Planning2. Operations3. Cross Cultural / Events4. Professional Development5. Finance
Principal's Report	<u>1. Student Success Planning & Instruction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st Cycle – collecting data.• Student Data:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We are seeing continued growth with phonics and phonological awareness. The upper grades are writing cohesive paragraphs. Students are seeing themselves as mathematicians and writers.• Acadience Reading:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ screenings will get underway for all P-2 students again in January. P-2 students can appear to be doing everything, but there can be gaps.○ Acadience data can lead to CORE survey and group interventions based on the data.• TST – Teaching Support Team:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ teachers refer themselves to the Team. The Team meets every 2 weeks and we share ideas, strategies and build plans to support students. <u>2. Operations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water pooling:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Water is pooling outside the pre-primary doors. Crusher dust was put down but was not as effective as expected.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The hill by the school is not used for safety purposes. Erosion and “student mining” have exposed large rocks on the sliding hill. Discussed connecting with HRM to post a sign for the community. Suggestions to stabilize include finding funding to plant trees. <p><u>3. Co-Curricular Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Spirit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School clothing will be available for purchase in an online store in Jan/Feb and again in the Spring ○ We have a new school song that has been shared with students and they are enthusiastic about it. ● Concerts: We have three P-5 evening winter concerts plus day time concerts ● Assemblies: November – Remembrance Day ● School Trips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BBMD staff is open to field trips and trips have been taken. ○ There are barriers such as cost, bus timing, complex needs, and volunteer checks to consider. ○ BBMD has hosted many guest performers and speakers in recent years. Will begin announcing through the school newsletter to communicate with families about the opportunities happening in the building. <p><u>4. Professional Development:</u> Teachers attended self-selected learning sessions from various professional associations during conference day (e.g., PETA, MTA, AST,ATEC)</p> <p><u>5. Finance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grant funding: updates expected in November; none received yet.
<p>Special reports and/or presentations:</p>	<p><u>Playground Replacement Plan:</u> Geoffrey Olsson shared the process for the playground replacement/upgrades. Student surveys were completed for ideas.</p> <p><u>Next steps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HRM partnership, plan for work in summer 2026 with hopes to be done before September (safety will be the priority if work is not complete by school start) - tenders going out in January, general concepts will be given to potential bidders - design will be brought to SAC for review (if SAC/school has other ideas and funds this will be the time to ask) - looking at inclusive options such as rubber matting - \$300K-\$500K cost for a 20-25 year life cycle - looking at the front island play structure possibly being replaced with a court in 2027 (will revisit) - looking into grant funding for extra costs for additions - HRCE operations can entertain outside agencies for the project (school community connections can be used if they have appropriate certifications and insurance) - Some ideas: Buddy Bench, apple orchard (Trees Canada may provide trees at no cost)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Auxiliary funds can be used – contact SLC supervisor, HRM (applications due by Feb. 19)- request extra funding from MPs/MLAs- drainage/water pooling can be addressed as part of the scope- Erin shared BB Awareness Association – perhaps someone to connect with for funding
Other:	Lyndsay G asked about our school accepting gently used winter clothing – we will take it!
Future Meeting Dates Adjournment Time:	Feb 9 - April 13 - June 8 4:04 PM