



MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance

- Shafina Dharamsi, Belfast Principal
- Jennifer Macdonald, Belfast Vice Principal
- David Tran, Council President
- Kristina Prins, Council Treasurer
- Lois Mafrica, Council Secretary
- Amanda Priolo
- Chelsea Patrick
- Deidra Heintzman
- Eleese Llewellyn
- Emily Keenan
- Kim Buchanan
- Robin Pommier
- Ryan Llewellyn

Call to Order

- Belfast Parent Council meeting called to order at 6:34 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

- Contact sheet was circulated.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: David moved to approve September 15, 2026, agenda as presented, seconded by Emily, all in favour, CARRIED.

Approval of the Minutes from the Last Meeting

MOTION: David moved to approve June 16, 2026, Meeting Minutes, seconded by Robin, all in favour, CARRIED.

Review of Email Motions to be Added to Minutes

- None.

Reports

School Update - Shafina/Jennifer:

- Shafina presented her recorded land acknowledgement. Classes will create their own acknowledgements as part of their learning.
- School Development Plan (SDP): Year 3 of 3, focusing on reviewing academic and well-being data, identifying growth areas, setting intermediate goals, and strengthening the Belfast community long-term.
- Shafina values Belfast's small-school community and arts focus, and is committed to building on existing strengths while incorporating student voices into the school's story.
- Jenn brings experience from larger schools, a science background, and an all-girls program. She looks forward to working with Shafina and the Belfast community.
- Council members introduced themselves.

- First week of school: Went well, with classroom visits, playground coffee with parents, relationship-building, and a staff introduction at the first assembly.
- Welcome Back BBQ: A successful evening; thanks to everyone who attended. Jenn was sorry she was unable to attend.
- Classroom routines: Expectations and routines have been established, with classroom rules co-created by students. Morning activities include sharing circles and daily math questions.
- Family communication: Weekly messages continue, along with efforts to maintain the school's Instagram.
- Community and arts: Kristina praised Belfast's strong parent involvement and shared learning themes across classes, which help build connection. The school's arts culture remains important despite no formal arts designation.
- Leadership Club: Has started with enthusiastic students leading morning announcements, which students appreciate for their inclusive approach.
- Looking ahead: Council encouraged Shafina and Jenn to build on Belfast's existing strengths while bringing new ideas and experiences.
- Arts legacy: Shafina affirmed that the arts will remain part of Belfast's identity, potentially through plays, short performances, and other creative opportunities shaped by the students and community.
- Updates and discussion items:
 - Communications: Weekly family communications and Instagram updates continue.
 - SDP: Year 3 of 3 of the School Development Plan is underway, with further updates expected in October as data is analyzed.
 - Garden Beds: Kim noted the beds have evolved over time, with various approaches and an attempted partnership with a local high school. Selling them has been discussed, though there is interest in sustainable outdoor classrooms. An after-school garden club has not previously been offered to parents.
 - Fun Lunch: Alisha, a parent who has helped previously, is willing to assist. Although labour-intensive upfront, it can be a fundraiser. Orders must be packaged by class, and Leadership Club students help distribute them. Alternative fundraising options were discussed.
 - Previous earnings varied: no profit the year before last, approximately 40–60/month last year, and \$160/month in the first year.

ACTION: Follow-up with Alisha to confirm whether she has already contacted restaurants.

- Staff Room Water Filter: Staff would appreciate a water filter, as existing water stations provide lukewarm water. The quote is \$2,500, plus \$250 installation and a \$68/month subscription. The school may cover the cost.
- Be Brave Game: The February anti-bullying Hitmen game costs approximately \$1,200 for busing. Participating schools attend and receive pink T-shirts.
- Truth and Reconciliation Commitment 2026-2027:
 - Focusing on calls to action 62 and 63
 - K & Gr. 1 promise on what they want to do to dee
 - Gr 2 & 3 – charters
 - 4,5 & 6 are looking at the commitments.
 - Engaging the entire committee in commitments for the year (staff, students and council).
 - Council discussed last year's commitments and opportunities to engage families in reconciliation education.

- Opportunities for parents and children to learn alongside one another through activities such as a Blanket Ceremony, sageing, and learning from Elders and local experts.
- Potential involvement of Elder Shirley Hill and the Tootosis family, with a focus on local land, the significance of wearing orange, and learning on the land.
- Encourage students to formally share their knowledge with parents, recognizing the learning they have gained at school.
- Explore how Council funding and activities can support community learning, reconciliation, and connections to the local land.

Chair Report - David:

- Welcome back
- Looking forward to this year.

Kindergarten Report - Deidra:

- A few parents have mentioned that the front door is not open from 8:25-8:30 am. Is there a way that leadership students can open the door?
- Kindergarten Ms. Bodio noticed there are not many puzzles – request was made for puzzles and cars, marble runs.

Key Communicator - Kim:

- The first meeting of the Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) is in October.
- Kim confirmed that the ASCA meetings are for the school councils. Trustees report to school council groups about what is going on between the government, funding, building schools etc.

New Business

- Dates – to be added to the Belfast website calendar.
- Request to add AM and PM Kindergarten classes to be added.

Next Meeting Dates

- Proposed Meeting – we can see in person or online.
 - Sept 15, in person
 - Oct 20, in person
 - Nov 17, online
 - Jan 19, in person
 - Feb – TBC 16th, online
 - Apr 2, in person
 - May 18, online
 - June 15 - AGM

Adjournment

- Belfast Council Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.