

Bell High School
Council Meeting
September 30, 2019
MINUTES

Attendees: Jon Harris, Rod Oickle, Susanne Bowen, Karyn Curtis, Fred Schultz, Jen Samuel, Andie Smith, Mary Clement, Trisha Charboneau, Sa Li, Caitlin Cooke, Mona Beimers, Lana Paine, Jeffrey You, Maris Stasko, Vivian Chan

Welcome and Introductions – Susanne Bowen

Susanne welcomed participants, each of whom introduced themselves.

Approval of agenda – Susanne Bowen

The agenda was approved. Motion to approve: Maris Stasko; seconded: Mary Clement

Approval of May minutes – Susanne Bowen

Approval of the May minutes was deferred to the next meeting, due to technical difficulties in circulating them beforehand.

Student's Report – Jeffrey You

Jeffrey provided the following report on behalf of Bell's student reps:

- Bruin Week raised over \$500
- Orange Shirt Day took place this week
- Marketplace will be held on Friday, October 4. This event showcases the many clubs at Bell, and will feature a bake sale.
- Leadership Committee met last Friday and will continue to meet regularly.
- Google forms for ordering Bell HS clothing will be available soon.
- A Town Hall was held recently, to which all students are invited, to ask questions of or make suggestions to staff, Senate and Student Council members.
 - Students raised concerns over busing, including buses arriving late, and disrespectful behaviour on buses.
 - Concerns were also expressed regarding washrooms, specifically stalls lacking locks and hooks, inappropriate messages in stalls, and students vaping in the tech hall washroom.
 - It was suggested that more advertising be done for clubs, sports, fundraisers and other extracurriculars, particularly to Grade 9s. Jeffrey noted that the website will be updated soon, and Interclub will post a club masterlist of clubs online.
 - Wifi difficulties are being addressed. It is thought the problem resulted from a Board upgrade. Board-wide diagnostics are being run to resolve the problem.
 - Town Halls will be held monthly. All students are welcome to attend and raise any issue of concern.

Vice-Principal (Intermediate) Report – Rod Oickle

- Bell has 13 Intermediate homerooms, with 283 students, including approximately 140 ESL students.
- We are focusing on supporting all learners. Bell is moving toward a more integrated 7-12 model, rather than separate Intermediate and High School sections.

- Two positions require staffing, owing to staff movement.

Principal Report – Jon Harris

- We have 283 Intermediate students and 893 High School, 12 below prediction.
- Construction is ongoing, and continues to have a significant effect on students and staff. The science wing opened on time, and the main entrance access has opened. Washrooms and an elevator are still to come. The new gym is scheduled to be completed by the end of October or early November. The English/Intermediate wing will be closed in mid-November for installation of an elevator. The project should be completed in December.
- Our School Learning Plan will focus on numeracy, and other gaps identified by EQAO results
- The October 11 PA Day will examine math, and wellness.
- We are examining ways to improve communication. Social media is generally good; the website could be enhanced.
- We are looking to give more students opportunities for leadership, and to help identify qualities needed and reasons for pursuing leadership.
- Bell will present Little Shop of Horrors in December. Auditions are currently taking place.
- We will be including Intermediate students in the yearbook this year. An early-bird special will be offered to keep the price as low as possible, likely around \$40.
- In response to a question, Jon indicated that we are considering having an Awards Breakfast, rather than an evening event. More information will be available at the next meeting.
- An additional question was raised about the possibility of starting a Junior Achievement Club at Bell. Jon indicated that there are several clubs linked to business, such as the Decca Club, and that a teacher advisor with a business background would be needed to run a Junior Achievement Club. He will make inquiries into the matter.

Staff Report – Maris Stasko

- Sports teams are going strong, including soccer, rugby, golf, hockey, touch football, Ultimate frisbee, and more.
- The Huntsman marine biology trip to New Brunswick is underway.
- Bell is participating in an exchange with 23 students from British Columbia. Bell students will go to B.C. in April.
- The Duke of Edinburgh club has met, and undertaken a fall hike. They will soon start the Sock Challenge, which donated over 800 pairs of socks to Ottawa's homeless community. The club is designed to encourage outdoor pursuits, leadership, community involvement and athletics. Bronze, silver and gold awards are given, depending on the level of activity and involvement attained.
- The Grade 10 outdoor education trip took place last week and was a lot of fun.
- The We Day Connect Conference will take place on October 8. Bell is the only Ottawa-area school participating.
- October 10 - Progress reports go home
- October 11 – PA Day
- October 15 - Photo retakes
- October 24 – Parent-Teacher interviews and Fall Colours concert
- Ontario Universities Fair – showcases universities in Ontario, October 30 at Holy Trinity, information at <https://www.ontariouniversitiesfair.ca/regional/ottawa/>
- Carleton University applicants with IEPs should contact the university's Paul Menton Centre to examine accommodations.

Treasurer's Report – Fred Schultz

- There is currently \$2,383 in the Intermediate account and \$4,423 in the High School account.
- It is not clear if the Intermediate picnic table was ordered before outgoing Principal Steve Collins' departure. Jon will look into it.
- The possibility was discussed of highlighting a different department at each month's Council meeting, to give a better understanding of each area. More to come on this.
- The Parent Involvement funds could be used to develop a parent resource library. We will discuss this in more detail at the next meeting. They could also be used to provide parents with information, for example, having a public health nurse in to speak about health issues, and for transportation to such an event.
- In response to a question on parent involvement funds, Susanne explained that the school receives \$500 each year to increase parent involvement, on items including translation, childcare during school events, etc. We can also apply for a Parents Reaching Out grant of \$1,000, to fund initiatives designed to help increase parent engagement. Applications are due in May. Although we did apply for this grant last year, our application was not accepted (there are stringent criteria for eligibility). Anyone with a suggestion for future initiatives is welcome to email Council at bells50@gmail.com.

Elections - Susanne Bowen

Fred Schultz was acclaimed as Secondary Co-Chair. Motion to approve: Susanne Bowen; seconded: Jen Samuel. Jen Samuel was acclaimed as Treasurer. Motion to approve: Mary Clement; seconded: Fred Schultz.

Intermediate Co-Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Karyn Curtis

Members-at-Large: Sa Li, Mary Clement

Any Intermediate parent or guardian interested in serving as Intermediate Co-Chair is encouraged to contact Council at bells50@gmail.com.

Fred Schultz thanked Susanne for her hard work and dedication during her four years as Secondary Chair. Susanne will attend Council meetings and serve as a knowledgeable resource during her last year at Bell.

Adjourned: 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, October 28, 2019