

Bell High School
Council Meeting
October 28, 2019
MINUTES

Attendees: Jon Harris, Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Jen Samuel, Sa Li, Maris Stasko, Xinyu Jiao, Xu Yang Chen, Priyantha Wijeweera, Suzanne McCormack

Welcome and Introductions – Fred Schultz

Fred welcomed participants, each of whom introduced themselves. Fred indicated that the position of Intermediate Co-Chair is still vacant.

Approval of agenda – Fred Schultz

The agenda was approved. Motion to approve: Maris Stasko; seconded: Suzanne McCormack

Approval of minutes – Fred Schultz

Minutes from the May 27, 2019, meeting were approved (approval having been deferred). Motion to approve: Karyn Curtis; seconded: Maris Stasko

Minutes from the September 30, 2019, meeting were approved; Motion to approve: Karyn Curtis; seconded: Jen Samuel

Student Council Report – Nicole Xu/Seth Bowlby

No report was presented as neither rep was in attendance.

Principal's Report – Jon Harris

Jon followed up on the following items, which were raised at September's meeting:

- We will have an Awards Breakfast this year. They are given for last year's performance, and as such only Grade 10 to 12 students are eligible. Grade 10 and 11 honour award recipients will be given certificates, and Grade 12s will receive medals. We are looking to expand the nature of awards, to recognize character, creativity and global citizenship, not just academic achievement. The goal is to encourage and recognize well-rounded students. The new awards may be introduced at Commencement in June. Nominations will be made online, then a panel comprising staff members, and perhaps a parent representative, will make the final selections of 8-10 recipients. In response to a question regarding awards for Intermediate students, Jon indicated that Grade 7s and 8s will be included in the yearbook this year, and we are looking to enhance the Leaving Ceremony. He will be discussing with Intermediate Vice Principal Rod Oikle how best to define and celebrate our Intermediate students.
- We will not be adding a Junior Achievement Club, as our Business staff are already supporting Deca club and a business leadership course.
- The picnic table that was purchased with Intermediate funds from D. Aubrey Moodie has been ordered and will be installed by spring. The area will require clean-up after construction.
- Staff will be presenting information on different areas, such as outdoor education and learning support, at upcoming Council meetings. Participants also suggested sessions on grading, co-op programs, summer school, helping Grade 8s with course selection, and university preparation. In response to concerns raised regarding course changes and learning support, Jon indicated that

the information on the website will be improved and the process reviewed for next year. Guidance counsellors will be encouraged to consider student well-being in course allocation and changes. Improvements to the current system will be discussed.

- The issue of transportation was raised, specifically, the 88 bus from Baseline Station, which is always very full and often inconsistent in its arrival times. Jon indicated he will discuss this with the OC Transpo Supervisor, as well as Trustee Rob Campbell. There have been many concerns around long rides and multiple bus changes, and we may well be losing students to other schools because of this. He encouraged parents to contact OC Transpo and Rob Campbell with these issues.
- The front entrance is open and there is an elevator and two new washrooms, which should be open in the next two weeks. Access to the Intermediate wing will be closed for a few weeks to accommodate construction. The gym should be ready by the end of November or early December. The Main Office configuration will be re-vamped to make it more effective.

Staff Report – Maris Stasko

- 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's Sock Challenge is under way. The goal is to collect 1,000 pairs of new or gently used socks for Ottawa's homeless community, by November 22. We have challenged Colonel By High School.
- There will be a Remembrance Day Concert on November 11.
- There are two outdoor education trips planned, for late October and early November.
- Fall sports are wrapping up, and winter sports are starting.
- There will be a Halloween Movie Night on October 30, and a Haunted House on Oct. 31
- Nov. 4-14: Grad photos
- Nov. 7-8: Intermediate immunization
- Nov. 14: Parent-Teacher interviews
- Nov. 15: Intermediate and High School PA Day

Treasurer's Report – Jen Samuel

There is currently \$2,383 in the Intermediate account and \$4,423 in the High School account. There have been no income or expenditures.

Possible uses of Bell's funds were discussed, including:

- the Learning Commons
- a projector for movies
- a parent reference library
- transition to post-secondary education
- mental health
- LGBTQ support
- social media

Jon and Fred will survey parents and guardians on this.

Other items

Trustee Rob Campbell has proposed a meeting of Zone 5 Parent Council reps in November, and invited Bell. It was agreed that Fred would attend the first meeting.

The position of Intermediate Co-Chair is still vacant. Any interested Intermediate parent or guardian is

encouraged to contact Council at bellsc50@gmail.com

In response to a question regarding the extent of Intermediate integration in the school, Jon replied that the Intermediate and High School are separate, with individual budgets; however, we are looking at increasing integration in other areas. There should be Grade 7 and 8 reps on Student Council, for example. An initiative to connect incoming Grade 9s with Grade 11 students is being considered, as are other means of welcoming Grade 9s into the Bell community. Teacher's professional development will be more integrated. The Intermediate timetable will be changed to incorporate 50-minute blocks (rather than the current 20 minutes), though lunches will be kept separate. Clubs and activities should become more closely linked. A question was raised about Rainbow alliance for Intermediate students, and Jon indicated that we are integrating as much as possible, and a Rainbow alliance should be supported for Intermediates. Jon also mentioned that we are looking to expand the awarding of school letters to areas beyond athletics, such as participating in drama productions and engaging in the school community in other ways, and that Intermediate students would be included in this initiative.

Jon addressed a question about asbestos being released during construction, indicating that, while older buildings generally contain asbestos, it is secure provided it is contained. Construction areas have been sealed, and unions have been heavily involved in helping ensure that testing, management and removal of asbestos is done in accordance with professional standards. A thorough cleaning will be undertaken and air filters replaced once construction is completed.

Motion to adjourn: Fred Schultz; seconded: Maris Stasko. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, November 25, 2019