

Bell High School  
Council Meeting  
November 25, 2019  
MINUTES  
DRAFT

**Attendees:** Jon Harris, Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Jen Samuel, Maris Stasko, Xinyu Qiao, Priyantha Wijeweera, Mia Luo, Hafsa Osman, Trisha Charboneau, Nicole Xu, Rod Oikle, Mary Clement, Roslyn Bryan, Cheryl Szebedinszky, Mo Tait, Trevor Tait, Lesley Airth

**Welcome and Introductions – Fred Schultz**

Fred welcomed participants, each of whom introduced themselves.

**Approval of agenda – Fred Schultz**

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

**Approval of minutes – Fred Schultz**

Minutes from the October 28, 2019, meeting were approved. Motion to approve: Karyn Curtis; seconded: Mary Clement

**Student Council Report – Nicole Xu**

Student Council has been very busy, holding a food drive, movie night, Haunted House, and board game cafe. They will be running a toy drive shortly, with points going to the Battle of the Grades competition. Registration for Leadership Camp was extended to Wednesday. School clothing will be available soon; purchases may be made online or at school.

**Principal's Report – Jon Harris**

1. Survey

**Valuing Voices**

The OCDSB is committed to improving equity of access and opportunity for all students. To do this, we need to better understand the challenges our students are facing and where more support is needed. As part of this commitment, the district will be conducting a survey called Valuing Voices – Identity Matters! The survey will be conducted between November 26 and December 13, 2019. The survey will be completed by parents of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6, and by students in grades 7 to 12.

Parents of children K-6 will be invited to complete one survey on behalf of each child. Students 7-12 will be invited to complete the survey individually during class time.

- The survey includes 2 types of questions: demographic questions about things such as race, gender identity, ethnicity, language and sexual orientation; and perceptual data about students' experiences related to safety, well-being, belonging, and engagement.
- The survey is confidential and voluntary. Participants can skip any question they do not wish to answer. Parents who do not want their child to complete the survey can opt out, by completing a form and returning it to the school.
- The survey collection process is confidential, but not anonymous. There will be a unique identifier in the data collection which allows the dataset to be analysed against other data sets as

part of our research. School based staff will NOT be able to access individual student responses to the survey.

### **Why is the survey necessary?**

We have been working on issues of equity for several years and despite considerable effort, we continue to hear stories from students and families about their experience with bias and barriers in the education system. Over the past year, we held focus groups with parents and students to learn more about their experience. These stories informed a report titled “Valuing Voices”. We appreciated the open and honest feedback we received in our focus groups. This report is not simply an account of the challenges our students and families have experienced, it’s a call to action. We need to do more to address the barriers our students face. The collection of identity-based data is an important step forward in this direction.

### **What is the purpose of the survey?**

The purpose of the student survey is:

1. to gather demographic information about the unique and diverse characteristics of the OCDSB’s student population;
2. to identify and respond to barriers to student learning and well-being; and
3. to enhance the District’s capacity to serve its increasingly diverse student population and client communities.

### **How will this information be used?**

The District already reports on a range of student data, such as achievement rates, graduation, enrolment, suspensions and expulsions. During the survey, the district will collect demographic data and perceptual data from students. This type of data, when analyzed with other data sets can be very helpful in revealing trends which could help to answer questions about:

- **Achievement Gaps** and whether certain groups of students achieve at the same rate;
- **Suspension and Expulsion Rates** and whether certain groups of students are suspended or expelled at a higher rate;
- **Streaming** and whether certain groups of students are over or under represented in particular programs or streams (academic versus applied; English with Core French or Elementary French Immersion);
- **Sense of Belonging** and whether certain groups of students feel more engaged/disengaged at school; and
- **Feeling Safe at School** and whether certain groups of students feel more or less safe at school.

### **2. Facility Update:**

- Gym and Science Hallway completion - December 9
  - Intermediate Hallway - Closure prior to break (3-4 weeks) - complete February 2019
  - Picnic tables - delays with the vendor. Working with purchasing.
3. **Drama Production** - Little Shop of Horrors - Rescheduled until last week of February
  4. **Remembrance Day:** - Thank you to the Music Department for the leadership
  5. **Prom:** Non-Sanctioned, i.e., staff will not be involved. It will be held at the Shaw Centre by promnight.ca. Multiple schools will be included.
  6. **PA day Secondary** - December 6

### **Ministry of Education Changes - Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants - Seeking Input**

This year, the Ministry of Education made some changes to the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants. The school council PRO grant application program has been discontinued and, instead, the OCDSB received \$40,521 in PRO grant funding for 2019-2020. The Ministry has set expectations about how the funds can be used, which can be read [here](#). All funds must be spent by June 30, 2020, and reports must be filed by July 15, 2020.

The District, in collaboration with its Parent Involvement Committee, is seeking your input about how to allocate those funds. We invite you to submit your thoughts by Monday, December 2, 2019.

The Parent Involvement Committee had a preliminary discussion about this at its November 20, 2019 meeting. Some of the ideas we heard include:

- Allocating an amount for each school council based on the number of students enrolled in the school;
- Offering Speaker Series by family or group of schools across the District;
- Administering a grant application process for school councils with a limited number of recipients and bigger grant amounts;
- Distributing a fixed amount to school councils based on needs (RAISE index);
- Focusing on projects that align with one of the goals of the Board and School Improvement Plans; and
- Using the funds to develop a parent engagement activity/module for school councils to use.

You may have other ideas and we would like to hear them. For more information, please refer to this report.

Question: What are your thoughts on the best strategy to allocate the OCDSB 2019-2020 PRO grant?

### **Intermediate Vice-Principal's Report – Rod Oickle**

- There are a few staffing changes under way.
- Ottawa Public Health will be providing vaccinations for Intermediate students, as well as providing information on vaping through a Virtual Reality experience. This program has been very well-received.
- We are looking at having class representatives for all classes, and Grade 7 and 8 reps on Student Council.
- We are seeking input from students and parents on Celebrat8, the Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony in June.
- Character awards are being considered, rather than awards based solely on grades.
- A Work to Rule campaign will start Tuesday. Information will be distributed. There will be minimal impact on students, as administrative tasks are being targeted.

### **Staff Report – Maris Stasko**

- The DC4U Leadership class is running a community building event called Flurries of Fun event for students in ESL classes. We want to introduce them to the fun of our Canadian winter through a series of initiative games.
- The Swim Team will be competing in early December, including a Novice meet for beginners on December 6.

- There will be a wrestling tournament on December 4.
- The Snowy Serenade Concert will take place on December 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Planning for the Canada World Studies annual U.S. trip is well underway, with students starting to register to take part. This year's trip will be to Boston, MA, and will take place April 21-24.
- There was a Justin Holness/Jah'Kota video chat in the ENG2D class to discuss Indigenous culture/issues to support their novel study of Indian Horse. ESLCO students visited the Museum of Canadian History to support their nonfiction content learning of the Indigenous people. Planning is under way for a trip to the National Gallery for the ENG2D classes to the new Contemporary Indigenous World art exhibit.
- Anyone interested in course changes should make an appointment with Student Services.

### **Treasurer's Report – Jen Samuel**

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

### **Overview of Science Program – Cheryl Szebedinszky**

- Science is a very robust and popular program at Bell.
- Robotics Club meets Friday nights, and the Biochemistry Club meets Thursday at lunch in Room 113.
- Our ESL students will be going to the Nature Museum.
- There was a Chemistry field trip to Carleton University on November 8.
- There are two chemistry contests coming soon, as well as a STEM contest, for which interested students may register in January.
- The Huntsman marine biology trip is always very popular. Information on the 2020 trip will be available soon.
- We are considering offering a new course in conjunction with Earl of March High School, called Public Health. It would focus on topics such as nutritional science and biotechnology. It could be a College, University, or Mixed course. If it goes ahead, it will be offered next year.

Students should advise Guidance if they are planning on taking Careers and Civics as a reach-ahead or summer course.

### **Zone 5 Meeting Report – Fred Schultz**

- Construction has been slow across the Board; it has been difficult to get overtime work done.
- Fred raised the issue of busing, and was advised by Mike Carson to refer it to the relevant authorities. Motion approved to draft a letter outlining busing concerns to OC Transpo, our City Councillor, Trustee representatives on OSTA (the school busing authority), and Zone 5 Trustee Rob Campbell. Motion to approve: Fred Schultz; seconded: Jen Samuel

### **3D Printer – Priyantha Wijeweera**

Following Priyantha's proposal to the Board on the acquisition of 3D printers, there was considerable interest at the last OCASC meeting. Jon indicated that it would be good to have a 3D printer in the library, and make it available to all. Funding for 3D printers could come from the school budget, fundraising, Council, grants, and corporate sponsorship.

### **Bell's Greenhouse – Priyantha Wijeweera**

Priyantha proposed several uses and upgrades for the Bell greenhouse. Jon indicated that the structure is old and difficult to modify; however, we could look at an urban farming/community living initiative. Jon will explore the costing of such a project. Cheryl will pass the proposal to Thomas Sparks, who manages the greenhouse, and grows and sells the plants.

### **Other items**

The issue of lighting along the path by the basketball court was raised. The lights were removed for construction, but have not been replaced. This has made the path unsafe at night. Jon will look into it.

A question was raised regarding the cancellation of Grade 11 French Chemistry. Jon explained that class offerings are determined by the number of students registered for them. If there is an insufficient number of students signed up for a given class, it is not feasible to run the class.

Motion to adjourn: Fred Schultz; seconded: Karyn Curtis. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Next meeting: Monday, January 27, 2020**