

Bell High School
Council Meeting
January 27, 2020
MINUTES
DRAFT

Attendees: Jon Harris, Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Jen Samuel, Priyantha Wijeweera, Mary Clement, Roslyn Bryan, Mo Tait, Rick Leir, David McCormack, Tina Sexton, Gul Tanis, Adneme Woolf

Welcome and Introductions – Fred Schultz

Fred welcomed participants, each of whom introduced themselves.

Approval of agenda – Fred Schultz

The agenda was modified and approved. Motion to approve: Fred Schultz; seconded: Karyn Curtis

Approval of minutes – Fred Schultz

Minutes from the November 25, 2019, meeting were approved. Motion to approve: Mary Clement; seconded: Roslyn Bryan

There was no Student Council or Staff report, as no representatives were present.

Principal's Report – Jon Harris

Band/Vocal Credits = changing from 1.00 Jr to 0.5 Jr, effective September 2020

Rationale: More free time for Jr students/credit availability for scheduling

Vice-Principal change (Mr Linden to Norman Johnston Alternate - Christine Siwy from Sir Will)

Pizza sales for Intermediate tomorrow and Friday

Intermediate Gym now open - Intermediate/English wing closure due to elevator (mid February - mid March)

Report Cards (Elementary - not sent home /Secondary - sent home February 10 - no comments included)

No new field trips

Grade 8 Day

Postponed due to grade 8 schools not being able to take field trips

- Hopefully this will be resolved by April - tentatively set the grade 8 day for Thursday, April 9 - the Thursday before Easter weekend
- Open House remains scheduled for the evening of February 6 from 6:30-8:30PM

Course Contracts - Assemblies for grade 9, 10 and 11 Students

Course Contracts for 2020-2021 will be due no later than Monday March 2.

Counsellors will be visiting grade 8 classes and ESLAO-DO classes the week of February 10-14.

In response to questions:

Jon indicated that the Board will be providing information shortly on the novel coronavirus.

Intermediate students will be moving to 60-minute blocks of instruction (from current 20 minutes), to give more continuous instruction and reduced transition times. This will take effect in September.

Picketing teachers usually hold picket lines across the bridge on Cedarview, so as not to impede access by different teachers' union members. Bell has elementary and secondary teachers, who belong to different unions.

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.

Bell's Greenhouse – Priyantha Wijeweera

Following his earlier proposal for enhancing Bell's greenhouse, Priyantha spoke with MPP Lisa McLeod's office to get more information on costs and possible revenue sources and support. He will look into grant opportunities from the Board, and provincial and federal governments. He will then develop a more detailed proposal with a project outline and specific costed elements, and present this to Council.

Jon indicated that we might be able to offer a Specialized High Skills Major program for food production, which could use an updated greenhouse to grow food. We could convert some existing space to a more modern kitchen and food preparation area, ultimately growing, preparing and selling food. Jon will explore options for funding, including grant and innovation options from the Board.

Busing – Fred Schultz

As agreed at the last meeting, Fred has drafted a letter outlining our concerns with OC Transpo bus service to Bell. Students are experiencing consistent lengthy delays and missed connections, which is having a significant negative effect on their ability to get to and from school and jobs, and to participate in extracurricular activities. As approximately two-thirds of our student population lives outside the catchment area, Bell's student body is disproportionately affected by busing shortfalls. It was agreed that Fred will incorporate feedback received on the letter, and send it to OC Transpo, OSTA and others. Motion to approve: Karyn Curtis; seconded: Jen Samuel

Other items

Jon followed up on the lack of lighting along the path by the basketball court, which was raised at the last meeting. The lights were removed for construction, but have not been replaced, making the path quite dark. The custodian is aware of the issue; however, it may not be resolved until Spring.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Participants were invited to tour the new gym, which is now open.

Next meeting: Monday, February 24, 2020