

Bell High School
Council Meeting
February 24, 2020
MINUTES

Attendees: Jon Harris, Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Jen Samuel, Priyantha Wijeweera, Jun Zhou, John Moutstatsos, Beatriz Moutstatsos, Tina Sexton, Mo Tait, Roslyn Bryan, Nicole Xu, Adrienne Woolf, Mary Clement

Welcome and Introductions – Fred Schultz

Fred welcomed participants, and indicated that the position of Intermediate Co-Chair is still vacant.

Approval of agenda – Fred Schultz

The agenda was approved, with the addition of items on OCASC and the greenhouse. Motion to approve: Karyn Curtis; seconded: Jen Samuel

Approval of minutes – Fred Schultz

Minutes from the January 27, 2020, meeting were approved. Motion to approve: Mary Clement; seconded: Roslyn Bryan

Student Council Report – Nicole Xu

- Leadership Camp was a great success, with students thoroughly enjoying the weekend's events and benefiting greatly from the experience. Camp leaders have received overwhelmingly enthusiastic and positive feedback.
- On March 6 there will be a Oscar's Casino Dance for Grades 9 to 12. Students can nominate others for various categories of awards.
- Battle of the Grades will take place the week before March Break. It will feature a scavenger hunt, dress-up days, and the ever-popular hallway-decorating contest.
- We will have two food exclusion days, where clubs will sell goodies.
- On March 27 we will hold a Coffee House.
- Bell's production of Little Shop of Horrors will be presented on February 27 and 29, the shows limited due to ongoing labour action.

It was suggested that more information be provided to the school community about the Musical, through email and social media, as not all were aware.

Principal's Report – Jon Harris

New Staff Secondary:

Contract: Johnson, Jonah - Construction Technology; Saleh Hammoud, Dina – Science

Long Term Occasional: Barclay, Melanie – Math; Feild, Cheryl-Lynn – Art; Herr, Kirandeep – Math; Tang, Michael - Math

Administration: Sivy, Christine (Secondary A-K)

Construction update: Closure of English/Intermediate wing

OSSLT: Struck work, decision in the works

Leadership Camp: Over 170 students involved, Modified Schedule Saturday AM - Sunday PM, big thank you to staff and parent volunteers

Feb. 24: Course selections, grade 8 visits; Girls Hockey-Bell vs St. Petes @ Bell Arena (dismiss 12:35 pm), M.Moloughney; School Council

Feb. 25: Pascal, Cayley & Fermat Math Contests, S. Taylor; Girls Curling-Bell vs John McCrae @ Sportsplex, R.Moors; Musical – Little Shop of Horrors, Tickets for “Little Shop of Horrors” will be available at the door for both the Thursday and Saturday evening performances this week. Both shows begin at 7:30 and tickets are \$10.

Feb. 28: Pink Shirt Day; Jr. Girls Volleyball Tournament @ Bell, A.Triantafillou

Mar 2: Course contracts due

Mar 9-13: Battle of the Grades

Mar 12: Secondary Progress Reports Home

Mar 16-20: March Break

Mar 26: Secondary Parent/Teacher Interviews

Mar 27: Coffee House

Mar 30: School Council

Mar 31: OSSLT

Report cards will be mailed home mid-July

School funding: We need about 100 new computers. Jon will look into acquiring them. Companies can donate used computers to schools, and we can provide tax receipts. We are looking at replacing the computer lab in the next few years. We received a grant of approximately \$100,000, half of which goes to departments, based on the needs of each. The remainder is pooled for all departments. This year we got whiteboards, which will be installed soon. We spent \$3,500 on Grade 11 textbooks, between \$90 and \$130 per book. We used to receive Ministry money for textbooks, but no longer do. We can buy e-licences for some classes, instead of textbooks. We spend almost \$5,000 on postage. Mailing report cards home costs approximately \$1,500. We will let parents know that they are available for pickup, and if not picked up they will be mailed. We may eventually have a secure parent portal, so report cards could be sent electronically. We spent about \$15,000 on team transportation last year. We may need to increase team fees, as busing costs have risen. School generated funds must be spent on items or events that are available to all students, such as Leadership Camps.

Following up on a question asked last meeting about the lack of lighting on the path from the basketball court to the park, Jon indicated that the contractor thinks the cable was cut during construction, and won't be fixed until Spring.

Regarding a question about the Open House, Jon said that it was not as well-attended as in the past. We will likely separate it into Intermediate and Secondary nights, and hold the Intermediate one in May. We could provide transportation, if this is an obstacle.

Staff Report – Maris Stasko

No staff was provided, due to ongoing labour action.

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 expenditures. Report approved. Motion to approve: Karyn Curtis; seconded: Fred Schultz

Busing – Fred Schultz

Fred reported that the Council's letter outlining concerns with insufficient and erratic bus service for Bell students has been provided to the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority.

Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) – Priyantha Wijeweera

Priyantha circulated a handout from the last OCASC meeting, which provided information on labour action. There are significant concerns regarding the increase in class size, as well as compulsory online courses. The next meeting, on March 26, will discuss 3D printing and other technologies.

Greenhouse – Priyantha Wijeweera

Priyantha met with MP Chandra Arya, who requested additional information regarding plans for Bell's greenhouse. More clarity is needed on what work is required, and the funding necessary to complete it. It was agreed that it would be useful to obtain infrastructure funds for this initiative. The goal is to update the greenhouse and make it more environmentally sustainable.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn: Jen Samuel; seconded: Tina Sexton

Next meeting: Monday, March 30, 2020