

Bell High School
Council Meeting - Virtual
February 22, 2021
MINUTES
DRAFT

Attendees: Jon Harris, Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Rod Oickle, Ilhaam Barrow, Donna Owen, Jeremy Laliberte, Mary Clement, Roslyn Bryant, Yi Zhang, A. Abraham, Adrienne Woolf, Alvin Zhang, Amy R., Ann Meltzer, Arifa Mazhar, Brude Braidek, Cathy Gloade, Celina Liu, Cherise Elliott, Chris Wu, Christy Stanhope, David McCormack, Doug Carles, Everett Lynch-Staunton, Feri Siri, Rick Collins, Ghazal Al Masri, Haiyun Wang, Jamie Neufeld, Jayaanth Rajeswaran, Jeffrey You, Jenepher Harris, Jen Samuel, Kevin Tremblay, Minni Ang, Padmah Osman, Samira Ayad, Steve Zeng , Carol Huang, Vivian Vn.

Welcome and Introductions – Fred Schultz

Fred welcomed participants to our virtual Council meeting.

Course Selection—Jenepher Harris

We are adopting a new platform for course selection, Xello. Information has been made available to students regarding the process. It will be operational for course selection on February 24. Grade 8 students will be able to access it as of March 2. There will be class visits, virtual drop-ins and virtual visits to feeder schools. Course selections are to be submitted by March 17. Resources will be available on the website to help with course selection and pathway choices. Our goal is to help students and parents understand what opportunities exist, and to choose the best path for each individual.

Grade 9 Math is being de-streamed, so there will no longer be Applied and Academic courses. These will be available in the other grades. Gifted Math will likely continue to be offered. In Grades 10 to 12, Fitness and Outdoor education classes will be all-gender. Male and Female Physical Education classes will remain.

Questions concerning course selection, pathways. Options, etc., should be directed to Student Services.

Approval of agenda – Fred Schultz

The agenda was unanimously approved, with two items added to Other Business.

Approval of minutes – Fred Schultz

Minutes from the November 23, 2020, meeting were approved unanimously. Motion to approve: Mary Clement; seconded: Karyn Curtis

Minutes from the January 25, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously. Motion to approve: Mary Clement; seconded: Karyn Curtis

Student Council Report – Jeffrey You/Ilhaam Barrow

- There were three winners at the recent Bingo event. We will be holding a reverse Bingo soon.
- We will be having a Black History Month trivia contest on the student portal.
- Leadership Camp will be held virtually on February 27-28.
- Student Senator Laura Wang will be holding a Town Hall meeting in the coming weeks.
- There will be an Oscars Night and Talent show, at a date to be determined.
- Battle of the Grades will likely be held early in the fourth quadmester.

- Our Student Voice Liaison is developing a mental health information package for students.
- Club and Marketplace information is available on the InterClub website.
- Our InterClub heads did an interview on Instagram.
- Any questions for Student Council can be sent to bellhsprincipals@gmail.com

Principal's Report – Jon Harris

- We are working on improving communications.
- March Break has been moved to April 12-16. Quadmester 3 may be adjusted slightly as a result. Information will be forthcoming.
- Report card portal is open. Anyone experiencing difficulty is asked to contact the Main Office.
- We will be taking Grad photos. Information will be sent to grads shortly.
- Yearbooks are available for sale. The price is \$40, increasing to \$50 after April 12. There will be no class photos, but individual photos will be included.
- Bell class times will be changed slightly in the Fall, from ten minutes between classes to five. This will give 60 minutes for lunch (rather than the current 50), which will enable more time for clubs and extracurricular activities.
- There have been a few positive Covid cases in our school. When a positive case is identified, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) notifies the school, and contact tracing is implemented. OPH also notifies affected families. Names are not shared publicly. Affected classrooms are thoroughly cleaned. Parents and guardians are reminded to follow OPH guidelines and not to send students to school if they are experiencing any symptoms. Although there have been some positive cases, there is no indication of a wider spread within the school. Information can be found on the OPH website: https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/novel-coronavirus.aspx?_mid_=32064
- Staff are working on identifying students who are struggling with remote learning. We will be doing diagnostic testing and examining the data. A course package on language acquisition may be introduced for ESL students. We are also looking at offering a hybrid learning strategies course.
- Grad Committee is meeting shortly. Students and parents/guardians will be consulted and asked for input.

Intermediate Principal's Report—Rod Oickle

- Course selection will open for Intermediate students on March 2, 2021.
- Resources will be available for parents.

Treasurer's Report – Jen Samuel

There is currently \$2,883 in the Intermediate account and \$4,923.21 in the High School account. Any suggestions regarding possible use of the funds (e.g., speakers, events) may be directed to Council, at BellSC50@gmail.com.

Other Business

Report 21-024: Planning for the 2021-2022 School Year – Donna Owen

Concern was expressed with respect to the OCDSB's plans for the upcoming school year. Of particular concern was the quadmester system with a single course per day, and the return to in-person learning. Those opting for virtual learning must commit to the full year. It was agreed that Ms. Owen would raise these concerns on behalf of Council at the next Board meeting.

French Immersion—David McCormack

David raised the issue of lack of availability of some classes in French. Jon indicated that the number of students participating in immersion classes dramatically decreases in the upper grades. There is insufficient interest in Sciences in French to support a class. Jon will work with staff to examine options for next year; however, it must be supported by numbers. Even larger schools are unable to offer French Biology and Chemistry classes. Peer Tutoring in French is a possibility. While immersion is useful, the Delf diploma is more widely used and recognized internationally.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Motion to adjourn: Jeffrey You; seconded: Fred Schultz

Next Meeting: March 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.