

Bell High School  
Council Meeting - Virtual  
June 7, 2021  
MINUTES

**Attendees:** Jon Harris, Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Jen Samuel, Roslyn Bryan, Khalid Naseemi, Donna Owen, Janice I, Christine Siwy, Amy Rutherford, Noel Serrano, Simon Yang, Jules Wong, Ilhaam Barrow, Paul Elliott, Minerva Leano, Maris Stasko, Jeffrey You

**Welcome and Introductions – Fred Schultz**

Fred welcomed participants, each of whom introduced themselves.

**Approval of agenda – Fred Schultz**

The agenda was approved unanimously.

**Approval of minutes – Fred Schultz**

Minutes from the April meeting were approved. Motion to approve: Jen Samuel; seconded: Mary Clement

**Student Council Report – Ilhaam Barrow**

- Next week will be Spirit Week, which will include all grades, from 7 to 12. Themes include Swim, Meme, Nature, and Bruins (red and black).
- There was a Bell Bonding Night on June 9, which featured virtual games and a movie.
- Elections went well. Bell's new Co-Presidents are Simon Yang and Laura Wang. Appointed positions will be ready by the end of June.
- Students have voiced concerns over commencement, grad photos, and the format for next year, including the lack of break between classes.
- Jules Wong is our new Student Senator. Jules will co-host a Town Hall meeting on June 16 with our outgoing Student Senator. A link will be sent to those who signed up.
- Jeffrey You, who joined the meeting later, also congratulated Simon and Laura.

**Principal's Report – Jon Harris**

- Jon introduced Christine Siwy, Secondary Vice Principal.
- School will start in the Fall on Thursday, Sept. 9.
- We have not received information from the Board on the model to be used, which must be approved by the Ministry.
- Our preference is to offer two courses per day, with a lunch break in between, and possibly an additional break.
- It is expected that we will have quadesters at least until February, to minimize contact.
- Information is available on the website regarding summer school, under Student Services. Students interested in credit recovery should contact Guidance.
- Commencement will be held on June 24 at 4:00. Notwithstanding the provincial announcement regarding commencement ceremonies, the Board will ultimately decide how best to proceed. We will let parents and students know as soon as we hear from the Board. Jon will be meeting with students on Wednesday to discuss options. There will likely be a video from the Board, messages, Valedictorian speech, student pictures, and awards and recognition. All of this will be pre-recorded, with teachers as MCs.
- We would like students to be able to come to school in small groups, get their cap and gown,

and take pictures. We will be providing caps and gowns from our school-generated funds. Students will sign up with a group of 10-20, for a specific time slot. We are aiming for June 21. Covid protocols, including masks and social distancing, will be required. Ilhaam suggested a video from teachers to send graduating students off. Plans have yet to be finalized.

- Marks are expected to be available the week of June 28. There will be an email to parents with further information.
- The Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony will remain a low-key affair.
- The Board is seeking input on police involvement in schools, and has released a report on the School Resource Officer program. Ottawa Police Services officers are assigned to secondary schools in the a given area. They visit schools, answer questions, and provide information. The intent is to provide a resource and support at-risk students. Some students do not feel safe with the police presence.
- Several long-serving teachers will be retiring this year. We are saying farewell to Angie Cameron, Alison Green, Jim Risk, Julie Coe, Scott Taylor and Derek Hoesch.
- Enrolment has decreased, due in part to Covid as International Student numbers have decreased. It is expected that this will increase as restrictions ease. We currently have 692 Secondary students.

### **Staff Report—Maris Stasko**

It has been a challenging year for all. It is unfortunate that teaching staff will not be able to say goodbye in person to graduating students. We will miss them! We are working on a grad ceremony to give them a send-off. We are planning for Fall, and hoping to have sports and clubs back in action.

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

There is currently \$2,883 in the Intermediate account and \$4,923.21 in the High School account. There have been no income or expenditures.

### **De-streamed Math—Christine Siwy**

The province has determined that Grade 9 math will now be de-streamed, i.e., there will no longer be separate Academic and Applied courses. The goal is to keep pathways open for all students. Bell staff have worked with the Board to develop a solid approach. Students who struggle in Grade 9 math often have difficulty with abstract mathematical concepts. We want to help students visualize abstract concepts using concrete examples, for example, cups or pencils, to help them understand the concepts better. The student success team will identify Grade 8 students who will likely need more support in Grade 9 math; it is hoped that early intervention will help these students succeed and keep their options open. The Academic and Applied streams will be maintained in Grades 10 to 12. The student success team will work with teachers and help them support the wider range of comprehension that classes will have. Other classes, such as English, are being considered for possible de-streaming as well.

### **Re-cap of Speaker's Night—Fred Schultz**

The May virtual Speaker's Night talk on the Parent-Child Connection was well-attended, with approximately 50 participants. It focused on effective strategies for engaging with our children. The presentation was well-received, and we may consider hosting additional presentations in the next school year.

### **Other Business**

Jon Harris congratulated Jeffrey You, who won Bell's Student Recognition Award.

Motion to adjourn: Roslyn Bryan; seconded: Fred Schultz. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**Next meeting (tentative): Monday, September 27, 2021**