

Bell High School
Council Meeting - Virtual
March 22, 2021
MINUTES

Attendees: Jon Harris, Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Jen Samuel, Rod Oickle, Cherise Elliott, Aidan Koops, Luke Koops, Roslyn Bryan, Zhan Feng Zhou, Khalid Naseemi, Steven Harrison, Shannon Harrison, Helen Daniels, Jason Smith, Vivian V, Donna Owen, Jeffrey You, Mary Clement, Vanda Southworth, Justin Koops, Todd Miller, Jeremy Laliberte, Mo Tait, Jing Wu

Welcome and Introductions – Fred Schultz

Fred welcomed participants, each of whom introduced themselves. Fred also introduced Jason Smith, Head of Bell's Co-op Program.

Approval of agenda – Fred Schultz

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of minutes – Fred Schultz

Minutes from the February meeting were approved. Motion to approve: Mary Clement; seconded: Cherise Elliott

Co-op Program — Jason Smith

- Jason acknowledged the challenges presented by the pandemic for students and staff. The restrictions and the lack of clubs, sports and other extracurricular activities are hard on everyone.
- Bill Jackson will be working with the Co-op program next quadmester.
- Covid has resulted in decreased opportunities for student placements with the Co-op program. We are working with the community and other stakeholders to maintain access.
- Remote learning is difficult with an experiential program like Co-op.
- The quadmester system has allowed students to focus on Co-op, rather than balancing it with other classes. Students do one placement five days per week, which enables them to build their resumes, get certifications, experience simulations, etc.
- We are seeing more flexibility in work placement times now, e.g., evenings, and some stakeholders have increased availability.
- Students are managing well in the current environment, and all of our Co-op students have gotten placements.
- Students have gotten placements in health services, grocery stores, essential services, engineering, and the trades.
- Co-op placements are a good way to gain credits.
- Placements are usually in Grade 11 and 12.
- Winning Attitude is a Board-based paid Co-op program
https://www.ocdsb.ca/UserFiles/Servers/Server_55394/File/Secondary/Cooperative%20Education/winning_attitudes_poster.pdf
- Students select Co-op for next year, staff work with them, confirm their interest and start seeking placements.
- Anyone looking for more information should contact Guidance staff.

Student Council Report – Jeffrey You

Council representatives have been working to support fellow students. Club information will be added to the Bell website, as the InterClub one was not public. In May, clubs can promote themselves, do workshops, etc. Our Grade 12 reps did a live cooking show on Instagram. We will be holding Oscars night in April, where students nominate their peers for various awards. Battle of the Grades will be April 19-22. Our Student Senator is doing a Town Hall on Thursday and has invited staff. Student Trustee election deadline is today. We will be doing a daily Springo.

Vice-Principal's Report—Rod Oickle

Information on Grade 8 photos will be coming soon. We will be hosting a Leaving Ceremony for Grade 8s. We are waiting for more information from the Board on how to proceed.

Principal's Report – Jon Harris

- The Board is reviewing its policy on School Resource Officers and police involvement in schools. It has sent an email to parents with more information.
- It is also reviewing its Human Resources policy. A survey will be undertaken regarding potential changes.
- There will not be an Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test this year. We are looking at how to support students for next year. Jon will provide information regarding the pass rate. ESL students often struggle. We are considering ways to help students practise.
- Grad photos—information is available on the website. There is an appointment schedule.
- Yearbooks are on sale. Information is on the website.
- We are working with the Board and Principals on commencement. A survey was done for Grads. Information will be sent to Grade 12 students.
- Course selection is now closed. Parents must still approve students' selection. An email has been sent on this.
- We are looking at changes in student/teacher ratios, as we must meet the new provincial staffing formula. Classes are based on the number of students. As a small-to-medium-sized school, Bell has fewer courses to offer. It is also more difficult to sort classes and avoid conflicts. Timetables are developed in May. ESL and International Student enrolment is down, resulting in fewer classes.
- April 12-16: Spring Break
- April 19: Quadmester 4 starts
- April 23: PD day
- In response to a question regarding French Immersion classes, Jon indicated that most of these are in Grades 9 and 10, with fewer available in the upper grades. Co-op and e-learning are options for Grade 11 and 12 students seeking more French classes, and possibly an all-grades fitness class. Students looking for more options should talk to Guidance.
- Bell clothing is available for purchase. Information is on the website.

Treasurer's Report – Fred Schultz

Jen Samuel was absent; however she provided the Treasurer's Report via email. 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. Approval of the report will be deferred to the next meeting.

Other Business

PRO Grant—Fred Schultz

The Board has given several options to Councils for speakers through the Parents Reaching Out grant.

These were discussed, and it was agreed we would apply for the Parent Child Connection session on May 10 or 25, whichever was available. Motion to approve: Fred Schultz; seconded: Karyn Curtis

School Year Format—Donna Owen

At the last OCASC meeting there was considerable concern about the proposed quadmester system of one class per day all week. The lack of structure with virtual learning days was also concerning. There is a discrepancy between the amount of teacher-led instruction in virtual versus in-school learning. Some teachers use Google classroom, while others do not. Jon confirmed that this is the teachers' choice, and some conduct remote lessons every at-home day. It would be possible to have two classes per day in a quadmester system. This decision rests with the Board. Parents/guardians can provide their input through OCASC and Trustees. Bell's Trustee is Rob Campbell, who may be reached at: <https://sites.google.com/ocdsb.ca/robcampbellzone5college>

Jon indicated that a Learning Strategies course is proposed, which would help students who are struggling. We are looking at ways to address gaps in learning and increase credit-recovery opportunities. We will be surveying students to determine where the gaps lie. There may be credit intervention funding to help kids catch up. There are unofficial groups on Discord to help with studying. Peer Tutoring is also available. The Board runs a Homework Help site, as well.

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

Next meeting: Monday, April 26, 2021