

Bell High School
Council Meeting - Virtual
September 27, 2021
MINUTES

Attendees: Jon Harris, Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Christine Siwy, Rod Oickle, Ann Matejicka, Cherise Elliott, Jing Wu, Laura Wang, Letty Panedes-Tremblay, Simon Yang, Maris Stasko, Donna Owen, Laura Luo, Vivian C, Jen Jarabek, Jun, Roberto Lucero, Bing Liu

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 June meeting were approved. Motion to approve: Cherise Elliott; seconded: Karyn Curtis

Council Elections – Jon Harris

Jon thanked Fred for his leadership and support throughout the past year. The Council Executive for the 2021-22 school year was approved, as follows:

Secondary Co-Chair: Fred Schultz

Intermediate Co-Chair: Ann Matejicka

Secretary: Karyn Curtis

Treasurer: Vacant. (*Jen Samuel has agreed to continue as Treasurer but was absent. The position will be voted on at next meeting.*)

OCASC Rep: Vacant

Grade Reps: Vacant

Members-at-Large: Donna Owen, Jen Jarabek

Student Council Report – Laura Wang, Simon Yang

- We are working on setting up a Google classroom to communicate with students.
- Student Senator Jules Wong held a Town Hall, which was quite successful.
- There are several candidates for Grade 9 and English Language Learners Reps. Results are expected in October.
- Grade 7 and 8 Rep elections will be held in October.
- September 30 is Orange Shirt Day to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Bell's Indigenous Representative will be sharing information via video. We have invited Indigenous community members to share their experiences as well.
- We will be hosting a Spirit event in a few weeks. More details to come.
- Club registration is ongoing. Most clubs are open to Intermediate students. More information is available on the website. All club gatherings are currently virtual.

Vice Principal's Report – Christine Siwy

- We have had a successful startup.
- We have a modified semester for Secondary students, with Blocks A and B in Week One and Blocks C and D in Week Two.

- Students must complete screening daily. Links are on the website on the student information page. Any student who does not pass screening is to stay home and access learning virtually. The school should be notified by their parent or guardian.
- School opens at 8:55 and classes start at 9:10. There is a one-hour lunch break. Each Secondary Grade is assigned a given zone within the building, where students can eat their lunch. Grade 9 is in the cafeteria, Grade 10 the Math and Science hall, Grade 11 the Phys Ed/Tech hall, and Grade 12 the Grad hall. Students have been enjoying the mild weather and eating outdoors, too.
- Bus Dropoff and Pickup has changed. Dropoff is on Bruin Lane, and pickup is on the north side of the building, by the cafeteria.
- Anyone dropping students off should do so at the Main Entrance (by the staff parking lot) or by the Bell Arena. Please avoid dropping off on Bruin Lane, as it is very busy and reserved for buses. The unpaved parking lot by the baseball diamonds may also be used. There are crosswalks for crossing Bruin Lane.

Principal's Report – Jon Harris

- We have limited staff to monitor dropoff and pickup. Patience and respect for the rules is much appreciated.
- There is a Public Health nurse onsite at Bell, who has rapid testing kits available for use by staff and students.
- Clubs are all virtual for now, but it is hoped they may be in-person as protocols allow. We will work on creating a generic email for clubs, so questions can be directed to the appropriate Club Head.
- We are running most fall sports, including soccer, cross-country, field hockey and hockey. Tryouts are ongoing.
- Grad photos will be done in-person, in October. More information will be available on the website and in email.
- Fall awards will be announced virtually.
- The picnic tables purchased with Intermediate funds have not been delivered, due to supply chain delays.
- Yearbooks are in. Students are being called to the office to pick them up. Grads or their parents can pick them up at school. International grads can have them mailed. Anyone looking to do so should contact the Office.
- There is no Yearbook vendor or team for the 2021-22 year, so yearbooks may not be available.
- We are looking for suggestions for staff speakers for Council meetings. If you would like to learn more about a particular Bell program and offering, please let Jon know.
- The Board has determined that there will be no progress reports in October, and that Parent-Teacher interviews will take place in late November, not October. It is recognized that this will make it difficult to identify and address gaps in a timely manner. Communication with teachers is critical. Donna Owen voiced concern that interviews would take place so late.
- The Board has indicated that there will be Grade 10 and 11 Literacy Tests in October, as well as Grade 9 EQAO testing. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
- We recognize that there is a significant discrepancy in students' ability to access and profit from virtual learning. It is important to do more diagnostic testing, and identify and address gaps in learning. The Student Success Model has been enhanced. Christine is working with students who are behind in credits. We are hiring supply teachers to find significant gaps, identify students in need of support, and work with them over the lunch hour to recover credits. Credit intervention includes project-based credits and co-op credits. English Language Learners tend to be over-represented in lost credits, and we are working on learning strategies, language

acquisition, help with accessing learning management software, etc.

- It is great to have students back in person, and we are looking forward to a more normal year.

Staff Report – Maris Stasko

- Student Council has put together a video to recognize Orange Shirt Day. The PD days at the beginning of September were spent on Truth and Reconciliation resources.
- Fall sports are going ahead, with cross-country, basketball, field hockey, soccer and others available. It is good to see some newer teachers taking over, as several experienced teachers retired last year.
- Lots of students have been taking breaks outdoors. It is great to see them enjoying the fresh air and mild weather. Some teachers have been holding classes outdoors as well.
- We are hoping to be able to have field trips this year.
- It is great to be back in the classroom, and to see students in person. We missed them! Students are also happy to be back.

Treasurer's Report – Fred Schultz

Fred presented the report in Jen's absence.

There is \$2,883 in the Intermediate account, and \$4,923.21 in the Secondary account. No funds have been expended. We receive some money from the Board, and do no fundraising. We will work on accessing a Parents Reaching Out grant this year, which provides funding to enhance parental involvement in students' learning activities.

Fred thanked Jon Harris, Christine Siwy, and Rod Oickle for their leadership, Karyn Curtis and Jen Samuel for their work on Council, and Donna Owen for providing information on issues raised at Board meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, October 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.