

Bell High School  
Council Meeting - Virtual  
October 25, 2021  
MINUTES

**Attendees:** Jon Harris, Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Christine Siwy, Jing Wu, Hani Chabti, Cherise Elliott, Janice I, Maris Stasko, Anne Matejicka, Taryn Hinsey, Laura Wang, Simon Yang, Jen Jarabek, Ron Omara, Donna Owen, Vivian C, Jen Samuel, M Y Pang

**Welcome and Introductions – Fred Schultz**

Fred welcomed participants, each of whom introduced themselves.

**Approval of agenda – Fred Schultz**

The agenda was approved unanimously, with the amendment moving Christine Siwy's Student Success presentation before the Principal's Report.

**Approval of minutes – Fred Schultz**

Minutes from the September meeting were approved, with the addition of Donna Owen's concern over the late timing of Parent Teacher interviews. Motion to approve: Karyn Curtis; seconded: Donna Owen

**Election of 2021-22 Council Treasurer– Jon Harris**

Jen Samuel offered to continue as Treasurer; the position was uncontested. Motion to approve: Fred Schultz; seconded: Donna Owen

**Student Council Report – Laura Wang, Simon Yang**

- Elections for Secondary students are finished.
- Intermediate elections are ongoing. We would like 1 or 2 Intermediate reps for the Secondary Council, plus class reps
- We held a successful Spirit week and raffle last week, which raised over \$600, with almost half (as well as donations of non-perishable goods) going to Famsac.
- Halloween – we will have decorations in school. Students can dress up and take photos, and submit the to the yearbook. We will also have a candy jar guessing contest, with the person who guesses the weight of the jar winning the candy. Forms will be on Instagram.
- Interclub heads will be running Marketplace via the school website. The information will be posted by the end of the week, with information on Bell's clubs, their activities, etc.

**Vice Principal's Report – Christine Siwy**

- Student Success began as a Ministry initiative in 2005 to support students who were struggling to meet graduation requirements.
- The original focus was on recovering unsuccessful credits, hence the credit recovery program, which enabled students to work on specific areas in which they were unsuccessful rather than re-taking entire courses.
- Now the program is more proactive, and focuses on intervention in addition to recovery.
- Students are given support while still in the course.
- Students are offered experiential learning opportunities, including e-learning and dual credits.
- A tiered intervention system is used, which provides individual attention and support.

- Tier 1 involves a bi-weekly teacher-referred credit support session, which entails support sessions with the teacher, support for different subjects, plus a catch-up day focusing on missed assignments and work. These sessions are well-subscribed.
- Tier 2 refers to a student success classroom, where students are offered the chance to take a recovery course, and includes a resource period for reduced timetable, and more in-depth recovery of at-risk credits. Sessions are staffed by a Student Success teacher, and feature non-traditional classrooms with flexible seating, and individualized approaches.
- Bell's team includes Christine Siwy, Stephanie Russet, Jen Harris, Shannon Mills, Ron Omara, Student Support teachers, and guidance staff.
- The team meets every two weeks to plan, track, and develop student interventions. The goal is to draw on student strengths to best help them.

### **Ron Omara – Community Support Coordinator**

- Ron's job is to listen to students, work with Christine and the Student Success team to identify kids to work with on a personal level.
- Some are struggling outside of school, and our role is to help alleviate stress and provide community resources.
- We run programs to help kids with academics and personal issues.

Christina indicated that the goal is to support students by creating conditions for them to experience success, by drawing on their strengths. We want to provide diverse, inclusive, innovative opportunities to help students meet graduation goals.

In response to a question regarding resource allocation and additional expertise, Christine indicated that increased need would be addressed through funding to hire more OTs to expand the sessions, and to enlist teacher volunteers to provide support at lunch and after school. The team would grow if student enrolment increased. A Tier 3 approach would entail connecting with other professionals and community supports, e.g, social workers or psychologists, and learning support services at the Board.

### **Principal's Report – Jon Harris**

- We look at the metrics to determine if our approach is effective. We are seeing an improvement in our success rate, which suggests that our interventions are working. Bell has a significant population of new Canadians, many of whom join partway through the year, so they may be behind in credits initially.
- OCDSB Cares, an anonymous reporting tool, will be running soon. This will enable students to connect during day with a resource person other than Bell staff, and after school with an automated response, to give students the opportunity to share any concerns with administration staff. It will not replace emergency lines. The app has received positive feedback from the pilot project, and will launch soon.
- Take our Kids to Work Day for Grade 9 students is Nov. 3. We are encouraging students to participate virtually. We are working with teachers to provide opportunities for students in class.
- Jon reminded students to dress for the colder weather, as school doors are not open until 8:55. During extreme weather, we will increase supervision to allow earlier access.
- Many chromebooks have not been returned or are damaged. Jon reminded students to return any technology or textbooks they may still have at home.
- We have received some new chromebooks, some of which will be allocated to the library for students to borrow, and the rest will go to classes.
- The picnic tables (purchased with funds carried over from D. Aubrey Moodie) should be

- installed late Fall or early Spring
- There will be two literacy tests, one the week of Nov. 22 for Grade 11 and non-graduating Grade 12 students, and one in Spring for Grade 10s, at a date to be determined. The tests will be virtual.
- Report cards will go out Nov. 23 via email. Parents/Guardians will need the Ontario Education Number to access them, which can be found on course timetables. More information can be found at [www.ocdsb.ca/reportcards](http://www.ocdsb.ca/reportcards).
- Nov. 12 – PD day
- Nov. 25 – Parent/Teacher interviews
- In response to a question about snow days, Jon indicated that the school remains open on snow days. We are expecting direction on this issue, as we may switch to remote learning for snow days.

### **Staff Report – Maris Stasko**

- We have ELL reps on Student Council, and Miss Sally's presentation skills class is translating announcements into different languages, including Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese, Turkish, and Persian. The translations will be posted on the student portal.
- Rainbow Alliance is meeting in person every Tuesday at lunch
- Student council and Athletic Council meetings are also in-person, while all other gatherings are virtual.
- The library is open. Students must reserve books by email, and they will be delivered to class. The library can also be booked for classes.
- We have eight sports teams running now.
- We are looking for interest for winter teams, including Jr. and Sr. girls' volleyball, Sr boys' volleyball, Jr. and Sr. Boys' basketball, curling, hockey, Nordic skiing, alpine skiing, wrestling, and badminton. It is difficult to offer all teams, as we have lost several excellent coaches due to retirement and are not able to use community coaches now.
- We are doing lots of outdoor activities, such as runs, mini-field-trips, explorations of the greenbelt—even Band is outdoors.
- In response to a question about the swim team, Maris indicated that although there is interest, we have no coaches and cannot currently access pools.

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

There has been no change. We have \$2,883 in the Intermediate account, and \$4,923.21 in the Secondary.

Fred indicated that we will receive approximately \$500 in school funds for Intermediate and Secondary, and is soliciting ideas as to how to spend it. If you have any suggestions, please email Council at [Bellsc50@gmail.com](mailto:Bellsc50@gmail.com)

### **Other Business**

In response to a question, Jon indicated that Council Grade Reps relay information from the different grades, answer or forward questions from students, and relay student concerns to Council. Donna Owen provided information on the function of OCASC, the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils.

Cherise Elliott indicated that she would be willing to serve as Grade Rep, and would attend the next OCASC meeting and determine if she is interested in serving as OCASC Rep. Cherise was acclaimed

in the position of Grade Rep.

Fred will send out a poll shortly asking for ideas on staff presentations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. Motion to adjourn – Cherise Elliott. Motion carried

**Next meeting: Monday, November 29, 2021 at 6:30 p.m**