

Bell High School
Council Meeting - Virtual
February 28, 2022
MINUTES

Attendees: Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Rod Oickle, Jing Wu, Paul Elliott, Christine Siwy, Maris Stasko, Laura Wang, Diane McNabb, Jen Samuel, Ann Matejicka, Nickola Konecny, Erin MacDonald, Jen Jarabek, Jerome Nantel, Vivian C, Simon Yang, Pam Vdl

Welcome and Introductions – Ann Matejicka

Ann welcomed participants, each of whom introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda – Ann Matejicka

The agenda was approved. Motion to approve: Karyn Curtis; seconded: Fred Schultz

Approval of Minutes – Ann Matejicka

Minutes from the January meeting were approved. Motion to approve: Jen Samuel; seconded: Fred Schultz

Student Council Report – Laura Wang, Simon Yang

- Our Valentines Candygrams activity went well, with 1,500 items sold and a profit of over \$600.
- On Toonie Tuesday, we collected \$150, despite it being a snow day.
- Board-wide student trustee elections were held last Thursday; Bell's candidate Jules Wong placed in the top five.
- We held Leadership Camp on the weekend, with 57 students participating in various fun leadership activities. It went very well and we received great feedback.
- Next week is Battle of the Grades, where each grade competes in various activities and games to earn points. Students can check the Bell Instagram site or Google classroom for more information.
- In response to a question regarding Intermediate students participation in the candygram initiative, Rod Oikle confirmed they were able to take part.

Principal's Report – Christine Siwy

- The deadline for course selection is March 4.
- Every grade has been given the opportunity to watch a video on using Xello (the course selection platform), compulsory courses, etc.
- Guidance staff have been meeting with students, and have visited Grade 8 classes and some ESL classes for support with selection.
- Anyone needing assistance should connect with Guidance.
- An email went home asking parents to give parental permission for their children's selection.
- We will reach out to families if parental permission or selection information is missing.
- Last year we sent a list of students' course selections in Spring; it is not yet determined if we will be doing so this year.
- In response to a question regarding the email with the permission form, Christine indicated that the link is provided once selections have been made; however, this will be re-sent as some do not have it.
- The province is requiring mandatory e-learning for Grades 10 and below. Grades 8 and 9 must take two e-learning credits, while Grade 10s must take one.

- Parents have been sent an email outlining the new requirement, with a link to a form that sets out options.
- Students may opt out if they do not want to take e-learning courses.
- E-learning courses must be fully asynchronous, not hybrid or synchronously online.
- Summer school had two options last year: asynchronous, which would count for these requirements, and synchronous, which would not.
- In response to a question concerning how students' schedules will be managed when they are taking an e-learning course while at school (where they will study, for example) Christine indicated that we are awaiting direction from the board.
- In response to a question concerning e-learning via TVO ILC, Christina indicated that e-learning courses are offered through a consortium of school boards and taught by board educators, at no extra cost. Since there are costs associated with TVO ILC, it is not supported. Students interested in a given course should check with Guidance staff, as it may be offered through the consortium even if not at Bell. Xello lists the courses available.
- In response to a question regarding opting out of e-learning, Christine indicated that students need only opt out once, which will apply for the rest of their high school years.
- In response to a question regarding the rationale for e-learning, Christine replied that the intent is to provide more course options.
- Parent teacher interviews will be conducted virtually, on March 31, from 4:30 to 7:30. Parents should email teachers to organize a time. An email will be sent out closer to the date.
- We are tentatively planning for Grad on June 28, with time and venue to be confirmed. The board has approved planning for in-person ceremonies, and we are hopeful this will go ahead.
- Yearbooks will produced this year. They will have grad and student photos. Picture day is March 24 and 25. Yearbooks cost \$15 until March 11, then \$22.
- March Break is March 14-18.
- Grade 10 students will write the OSSLT May 9-13. Information will be sent out on this. (Grade 11 students wrote the test in the Fall).
- Picnic tables are still on back order.
- Rapid antigen test kits are available, maximum two per student. Students are advised to connect with the office if they need one.

French Immersion and DELF at Bell – Nickola Konecny

- Christine introduced Nickola, who is the Head of English, ESL, Languages, and Drama
- Bell offers Immersion, Core French, and FSF (for students with no prior French).
- French certificates are awarded to students who complete four French courses, and Immersion certificates for those with full Immersion credits plus six more, e.g., Civics and Careers, e-learning.
- DELF (Diplome d'Etudes en Langues Francaises) certificates are awarded on successful completion of DELF exams, which can be taken by any student with Grade 12 French (Core or Immersion). The DELF certificate is internationally recognized, and useful for university and job applications. There are three levels; students choose the appropriate level and can take mock-up tests to determine which test to take.

Staff Report – Maris Stasko

- Bell is participating in the Student Vote initiative for the Ontario election, spearheaded by Mme. Fuisz.
- Clubs are starting to meet in person, e.g., Student Council, Rainbow Alliance, Black Students

Association. Information is available on the student link on the website.

- Mme. Hartshorn's Grade 7/8 Immersion class had a virtual visit from the Cochrane Polar Bear Club, and learned to carve soap sculptures.
- Bell's Girls Hockey team is back on track, with two wins and one loss.
- Senior Boys Basketball is re-starting, as are Nordic skiing, Girls Hockey, Junior Boys Volleyball, and Badminton.
- Rugby, Track, Soccer, and Touch Football will be starting soon.
- Noon Intramural sports are starting soon, where the gym will be open at lunch for sports. This will be divided by grade, and follow Covid protocols.
- The board has given the go-ahead to start planning field trips, though no approvals have been provided yet. We are hoping to offer a Spring Outdoor Education trip. More information is expected soon.

Treasurer's Report – Jen Samuel

There is \$2,883 in the Intermediate account, and \$5,423.21 in the Secondary account. No incoming or outgoing funds.

Other Business

- No items reported.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Motion to adjourn: Karyn Curtis; seconded: Fred Schultz

Next meeting Monday, March 28, 2022