

Bell High School
Council Meeting - Virtual
April 25, 2022
MINUTES

Attendees: Jon Harris, Fred Schultz, Karyn Curtis, Anne Matejicka, Jerome Nantel, Jing Wu, Donna Owen, Maris Stasko, Laura Wang, Jen Samuel, Mary Clement, Mo Tait, Rod Oickle, Stephanie Russett, Erin Macdonald

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 March meeting were approved. Motion to approve: Donna Owen; seconded: Karyn Curtis

Student Council Report – Laura Wang

- Yearbooks are available for purchase until April 28, at a cost of \$22.
- General elections start soon for student council. A meeting will be held on May 2 to provide information.
- Bell merchandise orders are in and will be distributed shortly.

Principal's Report – Jon Harris

- The Board has reintroduced the masking policy. Anyone requiring an exemption must send a completed form to Jon.
- As a result of increased staff absences, which we are unable to fill, we may have to consider closing some classes unless replacement teachers can be found. Parents should be notified in advance in this event.
- Cafeteria services will resume on May 2 for all students.
- Commencement will take place at Cedarview Alliance Church on June 29. We will share information with grads concerning tickets, program, etc.
- Student enrolment for next year is 250 Intermediate and 750 Secondary students. The DDP will be closed next year, which affects Intermediate numbers.
- Secondary report cards were completed today and will be sent soon.
- There are lots of Rapid Antigen Test kits available. Anyone needing one should ask at the main office.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) – Stephanie Russett

- The OSSLT is a graduation requirement.
- There are two sessions this year. Grade 11s wrote in November and Grade 10s write May 10 and 11.
- A school messenger notice went out today to notify parents. A reminder message went to students as well.
- Any student who was unable to write the exam in November can do so in May.
- We are offering a virtual tutoring program on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:00. A

link was sent to students and parents today.

- Students can work on test aspects all week. The test will be written using chromebooks, in kiosk mode so there is no internet access.
- The test will be written over two mornings. Students will have double the usual amount of time, and are encouraged to bring classwork to do if they finish early.
- The school messenger notice included resources as well.
- Report cards go home Wednesday.

Congregated Gifted Program – Allison Fuisz

- The Gifted Program follows curriculum requirements, but pursues deeper detail. It provides students the opportunity to become specialists in specific areas, contribute to each other's growth, build empathy and compassion, and work with multimedia approaches. Students are encouraged to decide what to showcase and to build on each other's passions.
- Students communicate in myriad ways, delve deeply into critical thinking questions, diverge into various perspectives and analytical approaches, and maintain enriched conversations.
- It is an honour to help guide students' learning.
- There are currently 15 Grade 7 and 19 Grade 8 students in the Congregated Gifted class. This enrolment is lower due to online learning; normally there are 50 students.
- In response to a question regarding qualification for this program, Allison indicated that students must be tested and identified as gifted learners. The program is run by the Board, which determines qualification and school assignment.
- In reply to a question concerning the meaning of “congregated” in this instance, Rod Oickle explained that qualifying students across the Board are grouped with others meeting the criteria and by geographic location.
- Donna Owen commented that the Board now uses a tiered intervention system to qualify gifted learners, rather than straight testing. Students must essentially demonstrate an inability to be successful in a regular classroom, which has significantly increased the difficulty in gaining admittance. This approach has resulted in smaller congregated classes. This will ultimately affect Bell's enrolment, which is already declining.

Staff Report – Maris Stasko

- During the week of May 9 parents will have the opportunity to review their child's course selection and make any final changes.
- Registration for summer school is now open. Anyone interested should see Student Services.
- Some graduating students still need community involvement hours, which is a graduation requirement.
- Bell's senior fitness class has the option of participating in Ottawa Race Weekend at the end of May. In the past many have run the 5k and 10k races.
- The DDP students are offering flowers for sale in May.
- The Visual Arts Department is hosting a silkscreen workshop this week. Participating students will receive a personally designed silkscreen t-shirt.
- Students' art is on display in various locations around the school, including windows.
- The Tech Department, through its partnership with the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre, is building bird nesting boxes and bat boxes. MacSkimming has offered transportation to install the boxes and monitor them.
- Girls' soccer, track, boys' rugby, baseball, and girls' touch football are all ongoing. The boys' basketball team won the Tier 2 championship.
- Bell's vocal students produced an excellent video.

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

Fundraising calendar for 2022-23 – Mo Tait

- Mo has developed a draft calendar, to anticipate periods where it would be advantageous to run fundraising programs, e.g., during photos, yearbook orders, team registrations, etc. An effort should be made to piggyback on them to minimize requests of parents.
- Suggestions for potential fundraisers are welcome.
- Jon indicated that we cannot offer pizza lunches on a regular basis because of the cafeteria contract, but we could probably do so on food exemption days. We would have to give the cafeteria notice.
- In response to a question concerning the goal of fundraising, Jon indicated that he will seek staff input on priorities. A plan should be established to identify and prioritize areas and items to receive funds.
- It was agreed to set up a subcommittee to investigate fundraising options, in order to start fundraising in the new school year 2022-23. Motion to approve: Fred Schultz; seconded: Jen Samuel. Approved unanimously
- The subcommittee will further develop its mandate and determine how decisions will be made.

PRO Grant – Fred Schultz

- Our request for a speaker has been approved, and we will be hosting Paul Davis on May 9 for a virtual talk on cyberbullying, sexting, TikTok, and other social media issues. We are one of seven schools participating in this talk
- A Google sign-up form will be circulated for registration.

Committee to Update Principal's Profile – Fred Schultz

- A motion was approved to strike a subcommittee to update Bell's Principal Profile. Fred Schultz, Ann Matejicka and Karyn Curtis volunteered to form the subcommittee, with the goal of completing the new profile by the September Council elections. Motion to approve: Fred Schultz; seconded: Karyn Curtis. Approved unanimously.

Annual report – Fred Schultz

- We need to produce an Annual Report for this year.
- Jen Samuel is working on it, and awaiting information. Fred will discuss the report with Jen and Jon.

Succession Planning – Fred Schultz

- Fred indicated that he would prefer not to continue as Co-chair next year, and would be open to serving as Intermediate Co-chair the following year. He asked that participants consider taking on the role of Secondary Co-chair.
- Fred will put together a reference document to outline the roles and responsibilities.
- Jon suggested that we consider moving the Council meeting around to some of our feeder schools, as a means of increasing accessibility for the parent community and encouraging more members to join.
- In response to a question regarding in-person Council meetings, Jon indicated that he will inform Council when the Board makes a decision. In the future, we could hold hybrid meetings, where participants can attend virtually or in person.

- In response to a question regarding vaccination clinics, Jon indicated that Public Health will be giving standard vaccinations soon, but not Covid shots. He will look into the possibility of older students getting missing shots.
- There will be a virtual introduction day for Grade 7s next year.
- We are anticipating a ten per cent increase in Secondary student enrolment next year; however, this reflects a recovery from the decrease experienced last year. This may result in increased flexibility with respect to courses and scheduling. However, we would not have the same opportunities as a bigger school.
- In response to a question regarding whether vulnerable sector checks are necessary for fundraising volunteers in schools, e.g., pizza sales, Jon replied that this is unlikely as long as a staff member is also present, but he will confirm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. Motion to adjourn: Fred Schultz; seconded: Donna Owen

Next meeting Monday, May 30, 2022

[Bell HS - TREASURER'S REPORT Apr25_2022.pdf](#)