

Bell High School
Council Meeting
October 24, 2022
In-person and virtual
MINUTES

Attendees: Jon Harris, Karyn Curtis, Ann Matejicka, Jing Wu, Maris Stasko, Jen Samuel, Karen Winterstein, Anne Marie Salter, Ethan Guan, Jules Wong, Vivian Chan, Bill Hodgins, Diane Hodgins, Murjan Abdi, Mo Tait

Welcome and Introductions – Jon Harris

Jon welcomed participants, and outlined the duties of the Executive positions.

Council Elections – Jon Harris

The Council Executive for the 2022-23 school year was approved:

Co-Chair (Secondary) – Ann Matejicka

Co-Chair (Intermediate) – Murjan Abdi

Secretary – Karyn Curtis

Treasurer – Jen Samuel

OCASC Rep – Vivian Chan

Student Council Report – Ethan Guan, Jules Wong

On October 28, we will hold a Fall Dance, from 3:30 to 6:00, for Secondary students. It will be semi-formal. Tickets cost \$5.

October 28 will be a Spirit Day, with the theme of “Semi-formal.”

On October 31, we are running a Haunted House at lunch. Tickets cost \$1. Open to Intermediate and Secondary students.

October 31 is a Spirit Day, with a Halloween costume theme. Clubs will also be selling food, as this is a food exemption day.

Marketplace will be held Tuesday to Thursday this week in the cafeteria, to showcase Bell's various clubs and allow students to sign up.

There are now two Athletic Reps for Secondary students, who will chair the Athletic Council (a subcommittee of Student Council). They will help organize intramural sports and promote sports generally.

Students have submitted designs for school merchandise. A vote will be held on the final design.

We will be holding a Mario Kart tournament, at a date to be determined.

In response to a question regarding Intermediate representatives, Ethan and Jules indicated that they attend some of the Intermediate Council meetings, and vice versa. Jon mentioned that Intermediate Reps have not participated in Council meetings in the past, but might be interested in participating virtually.

Principal's Report – Jon Harris

As a smaller high school, with several specialized programs (e.g., ESL, Gifted, Immersion) it is difficult to offer a wide variety of classes. Timetabling can also be complex. We have had a significant number of new Canadians enrolling, which generates the need for ESL and learning strategies.

October 27: Grade 12 assembly on post-secondary pathways

October 27-28: Immunization Clinics for Intermediate students, to catch up on missed shots.

November 7-18: Grad photos

November 9: Take Our Kids to Work Day, for Grade 9 students. Participating students will accompany a parent to work for the day. Those students who opt not to do this will have a virtual option for school.

November 9: Intermediate Progress Reports go out.

November 11: Secondary Progress Reports go out.

November 11: Remembrance Day. We will hold three assemblies, for different grades.

Given the current fiscal environment and increased financial constraints, we will not be levying school fees this year.

Teachers of Grade 9 compulsory courses will be focusing on de-streaming, and relevant learning strategies.

OC Transpo continues to report student misbehaviour on some of the Bell buses. Students engaging in such behaviour will forfeit their Presto pass.

Mme. Fuisz has spearheaded a Nature Nook project at school, featuring new trees and benches.

The Board has approved the provision of free menstrual hygiene products at schools, thanks to advocacy by students.

Decision to be made regarding commencement vs leaving ceremony for grads. Exams finish on June 27, and Ramadan is June 28-29. We could hold a ceremony earlier, but it would not be possible to include all awards at that time. Jon will seek input from students, as will Student Council.

In response to a question regarding activities for Grade 9 and 10 students in the absence of exams, Jon indicated that staff are developing a plan for these students.

Staff Report – Maris Stasko

December 23: Escape Room, with proceeds to be donated to a charity to be determined.

Grade 10/11 Fitness class will be running a 5k summative race at Bell, featuring Grade 11/12 race crew volunteers and DDP cheering section.

Sports are going strong, including Senior Boys' Volleyball, Junior Girls' Basketball, Field Hockey, Junior and Senior Boys' Soccer, Boys' Ice Hockey, and Cross-Country. Zack K placed first at the West Conference Cross-Country Championships, and Bell's Senior Boys' team won their division.

Starting soon: Senior Girls' Volleyball, Junior and Senior Boys' Basketball, Girls' Ice Hockey, Badminton, Wrestling, Nordic and Alpine Skiing, and Junior Volleyball.

Outdoor Ed class did two backpacking trips to Frontenac Park, and is preparing for a bike tour of Ottawa next week.

Math and Computing Department is running a number of contests for Secondary students.

Information is available on the bulletin boards in the Math hallway.

Intermediate students raised over \$770 for the Terry Fox Foundation with their first Terry Fox run.

Sports and clubs are running, including Cross Country, Touch Football, Student Council, Ukulele Club, Chess Club, and Debate Club, with more to come in the near future.

Students from grade 7-10 participated in the Student Vote for the Municipal Elections on October 21 and 24. They learned about zones for voting, effective research practices, the various voting sections and more. Results will be shared on October 25.

Jill Perttula's HFC3M Food and Culture class has been completing food labs on Fridays. So far, students have made blueberry scones, avocado salsa, bannock, and miso soup.

Bell has over 40 AOBO (ESL) students this semester, both new Canadians and international students, who will be participating in the annual trick or treating event. This brings in group

work, understanding of the North American culture, map work (as they follow a map around), as well as communication skills with new people.

The Grade 9 Visual Arts class took part in a full day silk screening workshop with JB Arts. Students learned the process and then applied it to create their own shirt. This workshop is always a highlight for our students, so we were excited to offer it once again. More workshops are coming in November for the other visual arts classes.

In response to a question concerning information on Intermediate sports, Jon indicated that he will check with Intermediate Vice Principal Rod Oickle, and that more information is expected next week.

Fundraising – Mo Tait

Mo, Anne Marie Salter and Jen Samuel will form a Fundraising Subcommittee. Jon will seek input from staff on priorities.

Motion to hold a Purdy's holiday chocolate fundraising campaign approved. Motion to approve: Mo Tait; Seconded: Karyn Curtis

Treasurer's Report – Jen Samuel

There is \$2,883 in the Intermediate account, and \$4,923.21 in the Secondary account. Jon mentioned the possibility of bringing in a speaker, through the parent involvement grant, and suggested inviting a former grad to talk to Grade 12 students about their post-secondary experience.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m, after which Maris gave interested participants a tour of the school.

Next meeting Monday, November 28, 2022