

Sir Robert Borden High School

Annual Report June 2016

About The Council

According to the Sir Robert Borden (SRB) School Council Constitution, the SRB School Council's mandate includes "serving as a liaison among the school, the Board, parents, students and the community, advising on areas of school policy, maintaining a school wide focus within the parameters established by the Board". The Council also "proposes initiatives aimed at maximizing educational opportunities and enhancing school life and establishing its goals, priorities and procedures, while promoting the best interests of the community".

Council Members of the 2015-2016 school year:

- Principal: Wendy Verreault
- Student Representative: Niyoushe Saeidi
- Teaching Staff: Andrew Williams and Michael Blakely
- Chair and Secondary School Council Rep: Paula Shaver
- Secretary: Samira Quaaz
- Council Parent Representatives:
 - Cynthia Mar,
 - Louise Halpenny
 - Heike Payne,
 - Jill Badgery,
 - Ema Chaudhuri,
 - Sheryl Hamilton,
 - Jennifer Harmon
 - Dag Abraham

Contributions to Council

Thank you to all council members for their commitment and contribution to Council in the 2015-2016 school year. A special thank-you to Principal Verreault for her leadership as we move forward with a number of new initiatives that benefit the students of SRB. This year we said a reluctant farewell to Vice Principal Steve Jackson and welcomed our new Vice Principal, Katie Crombach. Thank you once again to teaching staff Andrew Williams and Michael Blakely for their interesting teaching updates. As always the assistance of our Secretary Samira Quaaz was greatly appreciated.

Council Meetings

This year, 2015-2016, the Council successfully held five meetings (September, November, January, March, and June) that allowed council to stay up to date on happenings at SRB and provided an opportunity for us to learn about the various programs and supports present at SRB. Presentations were provided by teachers Christy Armstrong, Stephane Leclerc and Mike Ward with respect to Canadian World Studies and French Department Head. Steve Jackson spoke about on line course selection and we toured the upgrades to the gymnasium.

A continuing topic of interest was grade 12 prom. Several parents and Principal Verreault looked at alternatives for prom, including location and format. The goal was to find options that would be reasonably priced so that all students could afford to attend. At the March meeting, the prom organizers under Abdou Sarr presented their choice for prom. Once again, SRB prom was organized by an outside company and tickets were costly and included both dinner/dance and after prom party at the Gatineau Airport. Efforts were made by interested parents and Ms. Verreault to ensure that there was adequate security and transportation options. Money was held safely for the students at the school; however, the prom remained not school sanctioned.

For next year, SRB will follow OCDSB guidelines so that prom organizers will hold positions on student council so that they work to represent the entire student body. There is continued interest by some parents in researching alternatives for prom which can see the SRB community come together to celebrate students completing their studies at SRB. Cost and safety remain priorities and can be better managed with research and planning. The goal remains to make prom accessible to and representative of all students at SRB.

The PRO grant, Parent Reaching Out grant, from last year was approved and coordinators Lyn Hall and Carolyn Matson worked to offer an interesting evening with community partners, students and Dr. Phil Ritchie from CHEO speaking on the topic of 'Parenting Teens through Challenging Times'. The presentation occurred in May 2016 during our scheduled parent council evening and was well attended. Thank you very much Lyn and Carolyn for taking on this initiative. I believe the idea is to host a speaker every other year and thus, next year will be an application year. This is something to be discussed in September with respect to topics of interest.

For the first time, SRB students organized a Relay for Life on May 7, 2016, which was a tremendous success raising money for cancer research and uniting both school and community families.

As Chair for SRB, I was able to attend grade 8 Information night and grade 9 Parent's night and encourage parents to come out to council meetings as a great way to find out more about our school community. It was a privilege to celebrate SRB Student Achievement Awards and Grade 12 Commencement Ceremonies at the end of June. This was particularly poignant this year as my youngest graduates to University studies and I leave as Council Chair after two years.

Council Finances

The SRB School Council receives an annual allocation of \$500 from the Ministry. The Council transfers all funds to the school bank account for the purposes of administration. There is a standing Agenda item at all Council meetings for the presentation and discussion of Council Finances. There was a purchase of a microwave for the student cafeteria, \$506.69. The end of year balance was \$1364.67.

Planned for 2016-2017

Principal Verreault has confirmed 6 dates for the 2016-17 school year; September 13, November 8, January 17, March 21, May 9 and June 13.

The 2016-2017 student representative will be a grade 12 student, Joshua Wolfsohn.

At the June meeting, there was not sufficient attendance by parents who will continue to have students attending at SRB for next year to hold elections. This was deferred to the first council meeting in September. It was proposed that perhaps co-chairs would be a good idea so that the work load could be shared. Secretary is a critical position and it is hoped that a parent might be interested in the communication role, ensuring that the council site is current and that minutes and meeting times are posted. The board is finalizing school web sites that will have links to school council.

Again, I would like to say 'thank-you' to parents and administration for their dedication to making SRB the welcoming, positive school community that it is!

Sincerely,
Paula Shaver

Submitted
1 September 2016