

Minutes

Sir Robert Borden High School Council

November 9, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Sir Robert Borden High School Council was held on Tuesday, November 9 at 7:00 PM through Google Meet.

Present (based on Google Meet user names)

Carmen Parsons, Chair	Jacob Solomon
Matt Gagnier, Acting Principal	Jacob Spivock
A McEachern	Jen Hubbard
Alex Krechmer	Joanne Child-Stynes
Art Amelie	Joel Kollias
Blake Potter	Kevin Shea
Brenda Asselstine	Lina
Christina Gillanders	Lise Dragone
Christopher Wilson	Lynn Fuller
Donna Blackburn, Trustee (Zone 3)	Nissrine Kaddouha
E S	Pooneh Kianfar
Emilene Ordeman	Rhian Evans
Florence Jaouen-Steffener	Rick Leir
Grace Oltmann	Sandra Lillico
Haleh Siadat	Sebnem Oren
Heike Payne	Sharon Creasey
Helen Norman	Stephanie Wille
J Solomon	Torie Del Grosso
J Sterne	Valerie Steed

Visit from Donna Blackburn, Trustee

- Thanked returning Chair Carmen Parsons and SRB admin team
- Remarked that it was a strange year for Board – final budget not passed until August
- Safety protocols, setting up virtual school
- Issue: families who had chosen virtual school option – could they continue to support brick and mortar school? Noted her support for this: fair to those who have contributed (financially and other) in previous years to continue to have a say in how funds are spent
- Resource Officer programme review – seeking views on how this is going
- Any issues/challenges related to pandemic are similar to those across the province; no unique issues

Approval of minutes from September

There were no minutes from September meeting: Chair will provide highlights and a link to the full video will be put up on the SRB School Council website

Council Year-end Report

- Chair provided a copy of the 2019-20 year-end report
- Council was able to meet twice only, due to COVID; one meeting to go over construction of new gym
- Report will go to Board office
- Financials – Council didn't spend any money last year, so it should still be in the bank

Principal Profile

This year's version highlight a bit more about the school, things we do as a school, what Council would like to see the Principal do

Student Report for Grades 9-12 – Jacob Solomon

- First quadmester so far: the workload is manageable for most students, as there are two courses only
- Hasn't heard about anyone using the after school help; surmised that students either don't need it or don't hear about it to use it
- Events – Borden spirit wear (or school colours) days at the beginning of each month
- COVID restrictions make events tough to plan; online game night potentially in the works
- Students are struggling more with social issues than academic
- Some clubs have started: Rainbow, Twigs (environment), Star of life (founded by Daniel Bersyniow, Gr 12) – NGO that fundraises money for healthcare, food in Canada and abroad; good opportunity for volunteer hours as well (see www.staroflife.ca)

Intermediate Teacher's Report – Chris Wilson

- Students, teachers, and staff are getting into a routine
- Gr 7 and 8 raised over \$2200 for Terry Fox Run
- Parent-teacher meet – everything ran smoothly
- No clubs at intermediate yet, as they have to be online
- Toned-down version of Hallowe'en this year – fun with costumes
- Treaties recognition week
- Remembrance Day – Kevin and his team have created a video, Last Post will be played over intercom; students will receive sticker poppies
- PE classes – 3 pieces of equipment can now be used; strict hygiene guidelines continue
- Ongoing rule: no equipment to be used during recess – frustrating for students
- School-based addictions counsellor to whom students can speak for mental health issues
- Upcoming presentations for responsible use of technology (Gr 7), police – cyber bullying, and addictions (Gr 8)
- Plans underway to celebrate school spirit
- Follow #srbhs_78 on Twitter for updates

High school Teacher's Report - Florence Jaouen-Steffener

- Four-hour period draining for some students and teachers, especially in some applied courses
- Akin to university courses!
- Rainbow Youth – Ms Lachine – Gabriel Movement, workshop with two guest speakers

- Teachers Federation concerns because government not heeding their advice on health and safety for all at school (Some concerns relate to eating breaks)
- Everyone is finding it challenging to keep their distance and follow guidelines, but they are managing
- Funding for microphones, cameras, tech support (for highly used projectors) to enhance experience of students at home (Chromebook mics not very good) would be useful and could be evaluated as part of the school budget

Presentation on SHSM programs hosted at SRB – Blake Potter, Kevin Shea, Sandra Lillico

- 3 Specialist High School Majors programs at SRB: Architecture, Emergency Services – Specialist 911, and Health and Wellness
- https://sirrobertbordenhs.ocdsb.ca/student_services/s_h_s_m-special_high_skills_major
- Introduces pathways to students towards college, university, apprenticeship, and workplace
- Students must complete specific credit courses and 2 credits of cooperative education to earn certificate, but the experiential learning and diverse experience are valuable in and of themselves
- SRB hosts 3 SHSMs, but there are many other ones across OCDSB – if students are interested in other areas, they can look into attending an SHSM at another school; Guidance counsellors can provide info
- To get the word out on these programs, information may start targeting students earlier (in Gr 7); planning in order to get through all the requirements may start in Gr 10.

Report of Vice Principal Intermediate School – Christina Gillanders

- Progress reports to be released on the OCDSB Report Card Portal on 24 Nov
- Registration required to access online portal; contact info must match info that the school has on file
- 26 Nov: parent-teacher interviews – since school used PD day at the beginning of school year, can't use two days for interviews as in previous years. Parents can reach out to teachers to schedule a different day
- Google Classroom helps students stay up to date, but no lessons or details – useful tool when students have to self-isolate
- Change: students started being asked to wear masks even when outside, as they still had troubles staying distanced
- Clubs are more difficult to run in Intermediate School, it runs full day: 0830-1520. Couldn't do the club until at least 4pm, which is logistically difficult
- Both students and teachers seem to have really adapted and are thriving
- More students are returning from the virtual school, as the school has been a relatively safe environment, and kids are generally happy
- Some adaptations have been required – e.g., music class: no instruments, no singing; PE a bit of a challenge in getting through physical education curriculum with no equipment, but can focus on other things
- More emphasis on teachers to fill the space, as there are fewer opportunities for student collaboration

- Made the decision for students to go outside rain or shine – may be uncomfortable in the rain and cold, but it's harder to sit still and stay inside for six hours a day without the exercise and fresh air
- Intermediate School doesn't have credit requirements, so it has more flexibility; in comparison, high school has to get through the curriculum

Principal's Report – Matt Gagnier

- 280 Intermediate students and 615 High School students for a school population of 895
- 150 Ottawa-Carleton Virtual (OCV) School-designated students
- Temporary instructional model during COVID was designed because high school students were assessed as at risk for higher infection rates
- Decision to have no exam days in order to maximize instructional time
- Thanked parents for continued cooperation, including daily screening to ensure that any students who are sick or with sick household members self-isolate
- Recordkeeping issues: parents getting phone calls if students are marked absent; parents just have to send an email if children are studying from home
- Streaming Remembrance Day commemoration 1030 11 Nov
- Math contests virtual this year (see University of Waterloo website)
- APs sent 26 Oct – Contact Ms Griffin or Ms Steed if you have any questions
- Reminder to “walk-a-block” to avoid car congestion
- Social Justice Club upcoming activity – Holocaust Education Month – Ms. Mroz
- Accessing supports: virtual resource room, literacy and numeracy program operating virtually this year (math, English, ESL, social science, French, science) – Registration required, free; outside instructional day
- 1:50-3:20 – brand new virtual resource, one-on-one extra help – refinements for next quadmester for students with difficulties engaging during their at-home days
- Student Council and Clubs – learning about communications: submitting announcements, using virtual slide shows
- Ministry of Education – new info/clarifications for graduating students: requirement for community involvement hours reduced from 40 to 20 hours; students still send their hours to SRB (scan photo of record and send online)
- Literacy test as graduation requirement has been waived this year. Field tests for online mechanism may occur in spring for future years
- No final exams or evaluations this year – students' marks will be based 100% on term work; teacher may provide summative task
- Quadmester model – adaptations starting in Quadmester 2 - Cohort B (L-Z) will be attending school 2 school days in a row (Friday and Monday) to balance out schedules (information has been sent out to affected students already)
- Google Classroom a useful tool to help students out on key tasks and supports, but SRB is an at-school model
- Final reports for Quadmester 1 available on portal 25 Nov (one day after Intermediate report cards)
- Thanked community for patience and understanding, as plans for commencement starting – all OCDSB commencement will be virtual (not streamed)
- Due to international requirements and current COVID restrictions, DELF exam will not be taking place this November; updates to this will be communicated

- Awards for students Gr 9-11 from last year to be recognized, but no ceremony. Preparations will follow after commencement packages are sent out
- Separation by grade at entrances/exits will still be enforced, but as winter arrives, students may be encouraged to use central doors to close some doors

OCASC Representative's Report – Helen Norman

- Last Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) meeting of 2019-20 year was in February, where efforts were focused on figuring out how best to communicate during pandemic (Facebook, etc.)
- Annual General Meeting was in October; executive mostly stayed the same
- Meetings through Zoom enabled a lot of people previously unavailable to attend
- Meeting on 12 November on fundraising and outdoor classrooms – seeking new ideas from the community; 19 November next regular meeting – register at www.ocasc.ca