

# Minutes Sir Robert Borden High School Council January 12, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Sir Robert Borden High School Council was held on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 PM through Google Meet.

**Present** (based on Google Meet user names)

Carmen Parsons Matt Gagnier, Principal Christina Gillanders, Intermediate Principal A McEachern Brenda Asselstine Wei Cui Sharon Creasey Torie Del Grosso Rhian Evans	Kathryn Ferris Fei Gao Jen Hubbard Pooneh Kianfar Emilene Ordeman, Secretary S Oren Heike Payne Jacob Solomon, Student Rep Mike Spivock J Sterne
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## **Approval of Agenda**

- Agenda was approved unchanged

## **Approval of minutes from November**

- The minutes from November were approved unchanged

## **Student Report for Grades 9-12 – Jacob Solomon**

- Everyone seems demoralized right now; nothing compares to the real-time classroom
- The current situation seems untenable, harder for students who are less willing/able to ask teachers
- Teachers are offering one-on-one time, but not all students are able to take them up on it
- People are trying some interactive games, such as Guess the Teacher using baby photos
- Hearing rumours that Spirit Week might be cancelled because no one is doing it
- Coffee House talent show scheduled for Feb 26; online so not sure if it will be successful

## **Intermediate Teacher’s Report – Kathryn Ferris**

- Teachers are rotating in classrooms virtually
- There’s been a learning curve on technology using Google Classroom or VLE: homework submission, use of breakout rooms, sharing documents, using Google applications (Classroom, Meet), “Hands up” function helps classes run smoothly
- An issue is having students log in on time; sometimes this is a connectivity issue
- If students have issues (e.g., access to computer), they should advise teachers via email
- Gr. 8s had a Slam poetry contest to showcase to each other

- Switching from Career Cruising to Zello on information on course offerings and pathways (owing to changes to changes in the software)
- Jan 25 – guidance counsellors to talk online to Gr. 8s about academic versus applied programs
- Jan 26 – parent night: a good "general" overview of what to expect, pathways, programs, etc.
- Mental health: Wellness, StressLess, and How to Help a Friend programs; Rideauwood presentations on addictions for both Gr. 7s and 8s
- All kids are feeling it right now; please check in with kids about whether they're doing okay
- Finding alternatives: "Show and Share" to do Show and Tell virtually, Cahoot! trivia game style, scavenger hunts, etc. being used to support learning in fun ways
- Please let teachers know if there are things they can do; hard for teachers to assess students without the physical/visual contact

### **High school Teacher's Report**

- Absent, no report

### **Principal's Report – Matt Gagnier**

- We are now in the second week of remote learning. Very quickly, educators adjusted to the continued and new parameters during this remote learning period which began on January 4 and continues until January 22. Thank you for your continued patience and support - I am proud of our staff and students who have quickly made adjustments.
- The school distributed approximately 45 Chromebooks to families on January 4-5 for students based on need and access.
- Thank you for the positive feedback for our continued efforts this school year. It makes a big difference for educators to hear from parents and students. As always, if you have any questions or things to celebrate and pass along please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.
- Today the provincial government announced a state of emergency beginning on Thursday. The OCDSB will be sending out an update via e-mail to the school community. By January 20, the Chief Medical Officer of Health will advise the Ministry of Education on which health units can resume in-person. At this time, schools are expected to re-open for in-person learning on January 25.
- This past week, secondary educators also held parent teacher interviews. Mark-to-date information was communicated prior to the winter holiday break. Parents should not hesitate to reach out to their child's teacher or guidance counsellor if they have questions.
- We are in the final 3 weeks of the quadmester. Quadmester 3 begins on Monday February 1. Students already have their timetables - if they have questions please contact their guidance counsellor.
- Report Cards for Quadmester 3 will be available on the parent portal on February 12.
- SRB Virtual Support Periods run daily from 1:50-3:05pm to provide extra help in key subject areas for all Grade 9-12 students. This is staffed by SRB high school teachers. If your child needs additional assistance, especially as we navigate through the remote learning period,

please make sure your child is accessing this resource if they need it. Information is on the SRB Website to access it or teacher's google classrooms.

- The OCDSB has a virtual homework support program for all students in Grade 7-12 available after school hours every day from 3:45-7:30pm. More information is available on the OCDSB website: [https://ocdsb.ca/parent\\_services/homework\\_help](https://ocdsb.ca/parent_services/homework_help)
- Grade 8 Welcome to High School information Evening is coming up on Tuesday, January 26 at 6:30pm. We will provide an overview of our wonderful school's programs and course planning process. There will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions via a Google Form to be answered offline in case there are additional questions. More information will be sent to Grade 8 parents soon about the evening.
- Our school guidance department will be working with Grade 8 teachers and students as well as current Grade 9-11 students in the coming weeks to begin the course selection process for next February. We will be making a few changes to help reflect more inclusive options for students as well as optimize our course offerings to ensure we can balance serving the diverse needs of all our students in providing a variety of opportunities across multiple subject areas. This year we will be moving away from Career Cruising, which is the software tool used for course selection, to Xello. Students will receive more information in February as we begin the process. Parents/guardians still need to "sign off" on course selection despite it being a digital process. We always provide a "paper" working version for planning purposes for families and will make this available once it is finalized.
- Toonie Tuesday is coming up on February 21, 2021 to support the Education Foundation of Ottawa. The Education Foundation supports students and families across the OCDSB every year by running breakfast programs for students, and providing additional supports to families in financial need. Please consider making a donation or participating in Toonie Tuesday - A link for donation will be sent out on School Cash online. Each year, SRB students benefit from the education foundation through breakfast programs and additional needs for individual students/families. Thank you in advance for considering to support our students.
- Indigenous Speaker Series January 19 11:30am - more information on the OCDSB website
- Virtual Speaker Series coming up on January 21, 2020 in the evening around Screen time use - more information on the OCDSB website.
- Virtual Commencement for our 2020 Grads was released this past December. We have had over 500 individual views on Youtube. It will remain available for grads and their families until the end of January.
- For last year's Honour Roll for current students, we are ready to distribute this to students for when in person learning resumes. Our office has been working to ensure this is also accomplished.
- We have had some questions about Grads for this year. This has been raised centrally as decisions around commencement given current circumstances due to COVID have to be made centrally. Commencement is on my radar, as well as grad photos. The district has been planning for Grad photos as well - they will be happening once we can resume in person. When I have more information I will share it with the school community, but wanted to let you know that this is not forgotten. Keep in mind that the situation continues to evolve and we need to comply with the current reality.

- Planning for Commencement has begun at a committee of principals; will follow the latest health and safety guidelines
- Parents can always provide feedback through the Parent Involvement Committee, including on Commencement

In response to questions:

- Government of Ontario announcement on de-streaming – this September, Gr 9 math will change; Geography will also have an academic and an applied course
- Ottawa Carleton Virtual School – timetable still being determined (lots of time – end-Mar/early Apr)
- If your child is in Gr. 8 at SRB, there is no requirement to register for Gr. 9; there will be a process following sessions on course offerings and pathways; for Gr. 8 at another school, there will be many opportunities in the spring
- Prom – clarification that prom is not a school-sanctioned event; it's separate from school

**Intermediate VP News – Christina Gillanders**

- Information for Transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 is starting
  - Guidance presentation on Monday, Jan 25 for students
    - Evening for parents Tuesday, Jan 26
  - Still waiting for additional information about courses and general operational pieces
- Mini-retreat Grade 7-8 Mini Enrichment program will not be running this year due to current safety restriction cancelled this year
- Jan 22 – PA Day
- Feb 11 report cards, which will be available through the portal – recognised that some parents have had difficulty accessing the portal (often due to address info on file)
  - Math one mark now, not separated by strand; new math for Gr. 9 – de-streamed course beginning September 2021
- Adjusted days for K-8s to make up for missed Mondays and Fridays days owing to holidays – 26 Jan
- Always available for questions by phone (No contact with teachers or students right now ☹)

**OCASC Representative's Report**

- Absent, information on monthly meetings are available at <https://ocasc.ca/>

**Financial Support Available for Families from Government of Ontario**

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-learners>

- Financial support is available for families during this temporary remote learning period through the Ontario government's Support for Learners program. Starting on January 11, 2021, an expanded Support for Learners program is providing:
  - \$200 for each child/youth up to Grade 12, and
  - \$250 for each child/youth up to age 21 with special needs.
- Applications will be open up to February 8, 2021.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm