

Minutes

Sir Robert Borden High School Council

March 9, 2021

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

Present (based on Google Meet user names)

Carmen Parsons, Chair	Margo Nelson
Matt Gagnier, Principal	Melanie Haskins
Christina Gillanders, Intermediate Principal	Pooneh Kianfar
A McEachern	Rhian Evans
Brenda Asselstine	S Oren
Christopher Wilson	Sharon Creasey
Florence Jaouen-Steffener	Stephanie Wille
J Sterne	Tomomi
Jen Hubbard	Trevor Grills, Vice-Principal
Jennifer Solomon	Wei Cui
Emilene Ordeman, Secretary	Jacob Solomon, Student Rep

Approval of Agenda

- Agenda was approved unchanged

Approval of minutes from January

- The minutes from January were approved unchanged

Student Report for Grades 9-12 – Jacob Solomon

Coffee House

Socks for Nunavut

Intermediate Teacher's Report – Chris Wilson

- There have been some STEM, Wellness activities
- Everyone's looking forward to April break week!
- Science virtual visits, including Museum of Science and Technology, which dovetails on the curriculum's focus on climate change
- Lunch time – new policy that lunch time is quiet to prevent droplets from spreading through the air
- Trying to keep students in their cohorts to reduce the risk of having to send more than one class home – please remind students to stay apart
- The lack of socializing has been difficult this year

High school Teacher's Report - Florence Jaouen-Steffener

- News on the International Career Development Conference international business competition that SRB enters every year. Led by students, almost 40 students competed this year, and 3 teams have qualified for the first time ever, which will be a virtual competition this year
- Pen pal programs with long-term care homes – 40 students have been corresponding with residents
- Relay for Life will take place virtually this spring
- Potential student speaker at the next Council meeting to discuss Focal Ottawa – club promoting local businesses and supporting students in need. See www.focalottawa.com. Supports Bridges over Barriers.
- Virtual Coffee House – showcased SRB talent (singing, music, artwork through virtual gallery)
- Ambience/morale – very full schedules (four hours straight), which is exhausting for both teachers and students. People are feeling the strain. Hard for teachers to do prep work between classes.

Overview of Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – Trevor Grills

- Explained changes for this year on the new fully digital format. This test replaces the test that used to be taken in Gr. 10 – this virtual format helps the school catch up, as the test couldn't be administered last year
- Doing a field test - new digital format 23 March to 4 June – only for in-person students
- The requirement for Grade 12 students who are graduating this year has been waived.
- All other students can take it; if they are successful, then it will be counted on their transcript
- Non-graduating grade 12 students will be priority, followed by grade 11s, then grade 10s...
- More flexibility: enables more time for students to prepare, and for schools to adjust for school-wide needs
- Students will write the test on Chromebooks in locked mode
- Accommodations will still be offered
- Two main parts: Reading Tasks and Writing Tasks – designed to take 60 minutes each (although this is flexible, based on students' needs) – multiple choice questions and 1 open-response question
- Practice test is available

Principal's Report – Matt Gagnier

- **Welcome back to In-Person:** Our last meeting had the majority of SRB students working virtually in January with the exception of students in our ASD Program classes. We safely welcomed back students who were working at home in February for the start of quadmester 3. Given how fast both the remote and return to learning happened, we want to thank our education staff who made this happen quickly to ensure the best possible circumstances for students in the classroom. Teachers adjusted their learning to fully virtual, coordinated with staff to distribute Chromebooks to those who needed it, ASD program continued to support in-person learning, and office and custodial staff continued to keep the school open and operational. Thank you to the

continued support of our parent/guardian community and our students who were all smiles (behind their masks) when they returned to school.

- **OPH Update** - In February the Ontario Government changed the parameters for the daily screening tool. All high school students are now required to ensure they have completed the daily screening. This is why it is important to use the actual Ottawa Public Health tool each day. We thank our families for ensuring this is done every day to help keep everyone safe. Staff follow the same process each day before going to work.
- **District Wide Survey on Mid Year Check in with Parents, Students staff** - will help guide direction/next steps. As a school we continue to monitor and support student well-being. We have a multi-d team, student success (guidance, spec ed, admin, sst) team to meet and put academic and non-academic supports in place for students. Teachers continue to leverage both classroom and instructional support time. Given the quick pace of the quadmester, we track students through the student success team to promote early intervention.
- **Staffing Update** – Currently, VP Ken MacQueen is away on leave. While he is away we are fortunate to have Denise Croteau, an experienced retired OCDSB Vice-Principal who will be with us, and assuming Grade 9-12 L-Z Responsibilities.
- **Fall Awards** - Students received their honour roll, silver medal or subject awards for the 2019-2020 school year through a distribution in February. Members of the office and school admin congratulated students, but I also wanted to echo the tremendous efforts of our students in their academic pursuit, as well as our office and admin staff who made this happen with everything else this past fall.
- **Parent Teacher Interviews and Mark to date:** We are just past the half-way point of the quadmester in high school - students received their mark to date from teachers late last week, and parent teacher interviews are this Thursday (virtually). Families received an email with instructions to sign up.
- **OSSLT Presentation Slides** (see agenda item above) - Planning underway for OSSLT for this year - priority given to non-graduating grade 12's, then grade 11 students, then grade 10 students. More information to come directly to families.
- **Grad Photos for Grade 12** students are taking place this week. After development of safety protocols with the school district and photo companies we are moving forward. A Grade 12 yearbook is being worked on as a club with the support of Mr. Shea.
- **Commencement** plans are currently in the works with a team of district and school based staff. Students have been consulted on the plan with our student council president and this information has been shared with the board. Both Virtual and limited in-person planning are being worked on. When I have additional information to share I will update you and look forward to celebrating our Class of 2021!
- **Welcome to High School (Grade 8-9) Transition:**

- An information night was held at the end of January to families to provide an overview of the Secondary school program. We also had two Grade 10 students talk about the Grade 9 experience in lieu of live tours in the building. We will be hosting a Grade 6-7 Information night for families in May as well and information will be shared with our feeder schools.
- **Course Selection** for next year well under way with the deadline being this week. Students attended grade assemblies and presentations are posted online. Reminders sent out to students and parents via e-mail. Guidance, SST, Spec Ed has been visiting classrooms as well in-person to remind families. As always, should families have questions please connect with Ms. Mayhew or Mr. Mullins in guidance.
 - This year students are using a new tool, called Xello. This replaces Career Cruising.
- Decision to remove French gym after grade 9 due to ensuring sustainable equity of access to support all learners and pathways across the school, ensure a varying range of French immersion offerings to allow French immersion students to explore French language use in core subjects, declining trend in French gym with students wanting other options. Students can still select Gym in Grade 10-12, it will be offered in English to serve all students.
- French Immersion Pathway Update

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
FIF1D	FIF2D	FIF3U	FIF4U
<i>CGC1DF</i>	<i>CHC2DF</i>	<i>HSP3UF</i>	
<i>PPL1OF</i>	<i>CHV2OF/GLC2OF</i>	<i>GPP3OF</i>	
		<i>COOP in French (2 credit/4 credit)</i>	
		E-Learning	

- There are two kinds of French Immersion certificates (recognition of course completion)
 - Extended French Certificate - Completion of 7 French Immersion Credits
 - Immersion French Certificate - Completion of 10 French Immersion Credits
- Successful completion of compulsory and French courses will get students 8 credits towards a certificate. As always individual pathway planning occurs with students, families and can be supported through Guidance. There are summer reach ahead options through Continuing Education for increased flexibility.
- Students in French Immersion also work towards the DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française), an internationally-recognized test of French proficiency. This model parallels the federal government process. Each year the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing competencies are embedded in French language courses, and students are well supported to work towards the DELF in Grade 12 French and throughout their time in french courses at SRB.

- **Extracurricular Highlights:**
 - Our social justice club worked with students, staff and members of the black community in Ottawa to amplify, celebrate and recognize black identities as part of Black History month. All students participated in a virtual video assembly that was organized by Social justice club students and Ms. Mroz and Mr. Potter.
 - Key Club and Student Council hosted a Virtual Coffee House event a couple weeks ago - showcasing the many and varied artistic and technical talents of our students. This was a great innovative collaboration! Thank you to Mr. Zubryn and Ms. Leahy for her support.
 - Student Council is planning a Spirit Week next week - more details to be shared with students.
 - Congratulations to the DECA (Business Competition) - with over 40 students from SRB/SRB OCV participating in the provincial competition we did have 6 students move onto the International Finals. Thank you to Ms. Leahy for her support.
 - Students in Grade 9 classes will be having a Virtual Assembly around LGBTQ Inclusivity at the end of April. Students in our Rainbow Alliance are helping to support the introduction/thank you of our speakers.
 - AP Exams are being planned for Grade 12 students in French and Calculus for the Month of May/June. Individual communications are occurring with students/families.
- **Elementary and Secondary Planning for 2021-2022 School Year**
 - All families need to confirm their attendance for the upcoming year (in-person or virtual). The OCDSB model will be similar to this year with students in cohorts/quadmesters in secondary and students being in 1 classroom in elementary with teachers coming to them.
 - Students in Specialized Program Classes will be fully in-person only for next year. (i.e., LDP and ASDP at SRB).
 - The decision is for the school year 2021-2022.
 - We know this is a complex decision for families. We continue to work conservatively to ensure student safety, but in a way that will allow us to shift as safety restrictions allow us to resume a more normal operation.
 - The district has developed both an [Elementary](#) and a [Secondary](#) guide with more information.
 - SRB has emailed and sent out reminders - this is due March 14. Any submissions with no response will be assumed in-person. If families have questions they can contact the school.
- **March Break Deferral - Changes to Secondary Quadmester 3**
 - [OCDSB Secondary Live Schedule](#)
 - Cohort B students will attend 2 days in a row (Fri March 19 and Mon March 22) to even out the number of in person days between cohorts.

- The long weekends also can cause confusion for students so looking at this schedule will help!

March 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1			

April 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				Subject 1		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 1	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	SPRING BREAK					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1		
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	

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- **Black Excellence Series: Cultivating Black Excellence at the OCDSB**

- The OCDSB is hosting a four-part discussion series on Black Excellence. The discussions are intended for all parents, secondary students and staff. These sessions will be livestreamed on YouTube. Participants are encouraged to share questions in advance to influence the discussion.
- The first session is March 10th at 7:00 pm and will focus on actions we can take at the OCDSB to cultivate Black Excellence.
- To learn more about this series, visit: ocdsb.ca/blackexcellence
- YouTube Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/PWtG2KRL-II>

- **Upcoming Consultations:**

- The District is undertaking two policy initiatives which will include focus groups and consultations in the coming weeks. Staff, students, parents, and community members can watch for more information on the following topics:
- Developing an OCDSB Human Rights Policy
- Police Involvement in Schools - Policy and Practice Review

Intermediate VP News – Christina Gillanders

- Xello - course selection due Mar 12th. All students have been provided training and can access the program from home using the student portal on the OCDSB website
- If they have questions, they are encouraged to contact their guidance counselor for assistance. Mr. Gitter can help with questions regarding the software.
- In January, we ran a student survey for our gr. 7 and 8's to gauge student wellness and to elicit feedback about both in-person learning and learning from home.
 - Work load
 - Ability to get help
 - Ability to share ideas
 - Ability to use technology

- Ability to socialize with peers
- Students were able to provide suggestions, rate activities they struggled with, and provide overall comments about school this year. They were also asked to rate their overall mental health and identify 3 activities they do to feel safe, happy, and stress free.
- Using the data, I shared overall trends with staff and compiled a list of students who require a check-in, regular monitoring, or a conversation with parents. We identified one particular class that seemed to have more students who struggled. Consequently, we have brought in an Itinerant EA to run a program called “Kids Have Stress Too”.
 - 1 hour a week for 5 - 6 weeks
 - Identify good and bad stress & develop effective ways to deal with stress
- Very difficult for us to run extra-curricular activities in Intermediate School due to supervision issues. Students stay in their class, teachers need a lunch break, after school students are traveling home. But there’s lots of rich learning events going on in class e.g., virtual events such as a tour of a Syrian refugee camp.
- No information as of yet regarding Gr. 8 grad
- In May, we will provide a transition video for our feeder schools (operational information, video tour and student presentations), and as requested, I will meet with students and parents virtually to answer any questions.

OCASC Representative’s Report

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

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm