

Minutes

Sir Robert Borden High School Council

May 11, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Sir Robert Borden High School Council was held on Tuesday, May 11 at 7:00 PM through Google Meet.

Present (based on Google Meet user names)

Carmen Parsons, Chair	Zaina (student)
Matt Gagnier, Principal	Bronwyn (student)
Christina Gillanders, Intermediate VP	Christopher Wilson, Intermediate School Rep
Brenda Asselstine	Eugene Zubryne
Sharon Creasey	Jen Hubbard
Chiara Andrisani	Rhian Evans
A McEachern	Alison
Michael Blakely	Patti Grover
Torie Del Grosso	Inayat Dhanani
Steve Georgopoulos	Florence Jaouen-Steffener
Stephanie Wille	Emilene Ordeman, Secretary

Approval of Agenda

- Agenda was approved unchanged

Approval of minutes from March

- The minutes from March were approved unchanged

Chair's links and activities to note:

Craig Henry Drive City of Ottawa study – <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/craig-henry-drive-area-traffic-management-study>

Police Involvement in Schools Survey:

<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=36985750>

Student Report for Grades 9-12 – Jacob Solomon

- Absent

Bronwyn – co-Chair of Relay for Life

- Committee – 14 members, 2 teacher supervisors; 85 people registered this year
- Party with a purpose: to raise money and awareness for Cancer Society
- This year, there will be a virtual event 2pm Google Meet Wed-Fri May 19-21
- Fun activities – scavenger, Cahoot!; survivor speakers

- Fundraiser link: relayforlife.ca/srb; email contact: srbrelay4life@gmail.com or on Instagram: @srbrelay
- Students can register individually or as part of a team
- SRB has already met its \$15,000 fundraising goal, now raising it to \$20,000!

Zaina – Key Club – Focal Ottawa

- 24 Oct – Key Clubber – 12 students involved – Focal Ottawa, an intergenerational charity that promotes select businesses through our website and uses social media to promote – Instagram, FB, LinkedIn: @focalottawa
- Link: www.focalottawa.com
- Businesses give cash donations, sometimes also give percentages of revenue
- In cooperation with Bridges over Barriers – supporting OCDSB students in need
- Hope to reach broader audience – please visit and patronize our partner businesses!

De-streaming Gr. 9 Math – Michael Blakely

See presentation

Changes to Gr 1-8 curriculum in 2020/21

- Financial literacy (credit cards and compound interest, importance of having a budget)
- Coding (algorithmic math) and modeling (moving towards algebra)
- Approaches to numeracy (when do students learn to add/subtract fractions)
- Social-emotional learning skills (brought over from health and PE curriculum)
- Greater focus on mental health

Changes to Gr. 9 Math starting in 2021/22:

- Math will be de-streamed, so there will no longer be academic and applied math in Gr. 9 (Course Code: MTH1W)
- SRB will run Gr. 9 Geography as a combined applied/academic course in September
- Ontario the last jurisdiction in Canada to still have streaming in Gr. 9

Ministry of Education goals:

- Dismantle systemic discrimination and structural inequities
- Increased educator capacity
- Increased student engagement, achievement, and well-being

Next steps for SRB Educators:

- Collaborative approach to curriculum design
- Engage in collaborative inquiry process to effect of different high-yield instructional strategies

High-yield instructional strategies include:

- Building thinking classrooms (talking out math problems on white board)

- Small group instruction, open questions, parallel tasks, integrating technology, productive struggle, facilitating meaningful discussion about math (online, in groups, in pairs), creating summary notes
- Many of these strategies already being applied, but some require investment and focus in implementation. On potential views that math is being “dumbed down” – there will be nothing lost. Adjustments are made from time to time. Goal is to make things more equitable, remove barriers at this early point in education
- Important to engage students in appreciating and liking math, open up more opportunities.
- “Math is awesome and very, very cool”
- English, Science and Geography will also begin to be de-streamed in coming years
- Questions? Please contact michael.blakely@ocdsb.ca

Intermediate Teacher’s Report – Chris Wilson

- Students and staff continue to adapt to the reality of online learning. Although less than ideal for most students, everyone is trying to make the best of it. Here is a quick snapshot of what is happening in our classes.
- Students in 8a and 8b completed workshops with Strata Inc to create podcasts and soundscapes. Their works will be available to the public in the coming weeks on the Great Canadian Theatre Company website. Their teacher is SO impressed by the hard work, dedication and learning the software. :)
- A variety of grade 7 and 8 classes are working with singer/songwriter Craig Cardiff. Students will be co-creating a song in small groups. We will be working towards a format to showcase our amazing students' creations soon. More details soon.
- Grade 7 Immersion classes have had presentations from members of Youthnet, which is a “for youth, by youth mental health promotion and intervention organization”. They were really engaging and helpful for students.
- Various grade 7 and 8 Health classes continue to have Rideauwood Prevention and Education program workshops with our school’s counsellor from Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services.
- In the coming weeks, Grade 7 Immersion classes will have the opportunity to speak with a curator from the Museum of History for a Q&A session.

High school Teacher’s Report – Florence Jaouen-Steffener

- Highlight Relay for Life (see student report above)
- Mme Lalonde (music) – huge thank you to Music Committee – four new timpani (kettledrums)
- Ms. Cain (art) – many students have won awards at Legion Awards contest: congratulations to Seyong, Valerie, Tyler, Victoria, Elizabeth, Maia, Noah, and Gabrielle!
- Tough to teach when you only have icons on the screen!
- Afternoon support starting at 1:55pm – still not a lot of take-up; students often feel tired by end of day

Principal’s Report – Matt Gagnier

- Since April 20 after the Spring Break, the school has transitioned to remote learning once again! I would like to thank all of our families and students for their continued patience and efforts. I would especially like to acknowledge the hard work of our education staff (teachers, educational assistants, admin team, custodians, and office staff) for their tremendous work in making this as seamless as possible. We also have a small number of in person learners and staff including EA's, teachers, office and admin to support them at this time and we thank them for their continued efforts.
- We know that right now it is a difficult time for our students and families. We encourage you to reach out to the school teachers, vice-principals, guidance counselors, or learning support teachers should you need additional support. We are here to work with you during these challenging times.
- At this time, we do not have any additional information about what happens after the Stay at Home Order ends on May 20th. We will need to await further direction from the Ontario Government and Ministry of Education.
- A huge congratulations to Ms. Stacey Arthur, our library technician who has won a Director's Citation for her innovative work transforming library spaces both at SRB and at Vimy Ridge.
- Student's Council has been busy working on Oscar Night - last Friday over 110 students attended Virtually - the evening also celebrated some arts and music students throughout the evening with performances. Student's Council also held a Battle of the Schools Event, which was organized across the school district. Finally, student's council election planning is underway in the coming weeks to get ready for next year.
- We have entered staffing season at the school. When we last met in March, families were making the selection of in-person or virtual learning models for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. We had approximately ~40 high school students and ~20 intermediate students choose Virtual.
- In High School our tentative enrolment is 685 students for next year (with 185 incoming Grade 9 students)
- In Intermediate our tentative enrolment is 362 students for next year (181 incoming grade 7 students)
- We are currently working on staffing both Intermediate and Secondary panels to determine tentative teaching assignments; should families need to make any course selection changes for next year they should contact Guidance. Information was sent out on how to do this to parents/students.
- High school students can also register for Summer School through Guidance.
- SRB is working on Commencement. Because of the stay at home order we are awaiting for further direction from the district around implications for Commencement. In the meantime, we have worked with the Student's Council and sent out a survey for input from grads and will be following up with grads soon around planning for some components for Commencement. "Curbside/drive-by" commencement idea (appointment style) an idea, but uncertain at this time.
- The school council financial account has been updated and an attachment was sent with the e-mail invite to the meeting. There is a balance of \$2371.17.
- At this time of year, we also see possible changes for School Administration; as you know, Paula Hall who has been away this past year on leave, is slated to return this September,

and I will be headed to Brookfield HS at that time. Christina Gillanders, who has been with SRB for the past 5 years will be headed to Steve MacLean PS. I know that Ms. Gillanders has been with our community through the entire transition from Greenbank MS and her loss will definitely be felt throughout the school and community. We wish her well on her next position! John Ioannou, who is currently Vice-Principal at OCV, will be joining the school behind Christina. John brings a wealth of experiences working with Intermediate students and will be a welcome addition to our school.

- Question on Quadmester – the plan is to be in quadmesters in September (status quo at beginning of school year), but still awaiting for feedback on end of cohorting, dates for potential return to semester, etc. (see [Secondary](#)). One idea kicking around: shuffle things around to give 30 minute break between two classes per day, rather than one 4-hour course per day, but nothing is certain yet
- Vaccination schedule for 12+ students, using schools to help vaccination up to public health officials

Intermediate VP News – Christina Gillanders

- Summer school registration process has changed this year: two specific courses designed to get students ready for Gr. 9 – requires teacher recommendation
- Some students who have been attending summer courses in the past don't really need it, while we're trying to provide opportunity to those who do need it. Courses now require teacher recommendation. This doesn't affect Reach Ahead students, who seek enrichment/advancement
- Transition from Gr. 6 to 7 can't happen in today's environment. A slide deck for three virtual meetings with feeder schools, plus a fourth date for students from different schools and boards. Email will be sent out next week

OCASC Representative's Report

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

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm