

# Minutes

## Sir Robert Borden High School Council

### November 9, 2021

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	Torie Del Grosso
Matt Gagnier, Principal	Rhian Evans
John Ioannou, Intermediate VP	Andrea Horton
Christopher Wilson, Intermediate School Rep	Jen Hubbard
Himani Parajuli, Student Rep	Pooneh Kianfar
Emilene Ordeman, Secretary	Omar Mahgoob
Donna Blackburn, Trustee	Al McEachern
Sandra Lillico, SHSM teacher	Chenyng Qui
Brenda Asselstine	Abdulkadir Rajab
Joanne Cheng	Jacob Spivock
Sharon Creasey	Fatema Zaineh
Aidan Cui	

#### **Approval of Agenda**

- Agenda was approved unchanged

#### **Approval of minutes from March**

- The minutes from March were approved unchanged

#### **Remarks by Dawn Blackburn, Barrhaven Knoxdale-Merivale Trustee**

- Made welcoming remarks to the Council, noted her 11 years as Trustee and working relationship with the school and Council
- Not much to update on substantive policies due to pandemic
- A key substantive issue is the potential change to the trustee zone of Barrhaven Knoxdale-Merivale. Currently, the zone covers the boundary that Jan Harder represents, plus the zone of Knoxdale-Merivale that Keith Egli represents). The City has redrawn boundaries, so the board is considering four options to redraw boundaries. This could include adding Knoxdale-Merivale to the College Ward
- See the Board website, which has a presentation that goes through process (public meeting took place earlier this week)
- To be considered in December along with other issues, such as Safe Schools and Human Rights and Equity Roadmap
- Please feel free to email any questions: [donna.blackburn@ocdschool.ca](mailto:donna.blackburn@ocdschool.ca)

### **Student Report for Grades 9-12 – Himani Parajuli**

- Survey of 9<sup>th</sup> graders - Overall census: don't have enough info, so providing help on that now, including info on resources, morning announcements; in response to request, will make announcements for 10<sup>th</sup> graders also
- Student feedback form – everyone feels confident for their midterms; this school year's model works better, now that it's in person. Council events to get everyone involved helps them feel like they're part of the school
- Clubs and sports – hard to get involvement
- More time with Guidance to get help earlier to figure out what they can do for the rest of high school
- Workload is difficult, but just because it's midterm time
- Events for Council – Halloween mystery activity, food drive, Remembrance Day

### **Report on Specialist High Skills Major – Sandra Lillico**

See attached presentation [SHSM Presentation](#)

- Architecture – Mr. Shea
- Certifications are paid for; SRB students can attend SHSMs hosted at other schools; students from other schools can attend the SRB SHSMs
- Emergency Services – Specialist 911 – Mr. Potter
- Nutrition and Human Performance – Ms. Lillico
  
- When can students start? Interested 10th graders can get started in Gr. 10, although the program is geared to Gr. 11-12. Getting started early is also useful for flexibility for co-op placements

### **How to effectively read a report card – John Ioannu**

See attached presentation [Report Card Mini Presentation](#)

- Every intermediate student's parent would have received an email on 4 November
- Requires unique Ontario Education Number (OEN); please contact student's teacher if you can't find it
- The November report indicates progress, not a "real" report card; there will be a February report card and the final report in June
- Part of regular communication with parents
- Teachers base their assessment on tests and quizzes, student conferencing (conversation, elaboration on work produced), work produced. No formula – no set percentage of how much each test or product is worth – overall score of progress shown consistently
  
- Note that some courses are not assessed (during the reporting period), and that there is a limit on space (33 lines maximum)

- Any child who joined after September 13 would not have a progress report. The reason: there is a six-week rule, where less than six weeks is insufficient time for educators to provide an accurate assessment
- There is a shift from Gr. 6 to Gr. 7 for numerical to letter grades
- Secondary report cards – same learning strategies as Intermediate
- Evidence Record – with the information provided, there shouldn't be any surprises in terms of the overall mark

### **Appropriate Use of Technology – Carmen Parsons**

- The Board seeking input on this policy, as the current version is a bit outdated
- This policy is connected to the media use form that goes out every year

### Discussion points

- Could we make repercussions for misuse more clear?
- How to balance against equity of access, given that access to digital platforms are so critical now
- Recording/monitoring needed to balance against privacy and safety
- Host control tools – more in place now to monitor chat
- Role and responsibilities of the individual; recognition of students' private property
- Other policies, such as code of conduct, governs overall behaviour and expectations
- Use of technology not dependent on location or time; as part of a community, any student use of technology that affects another student or the school community is covered by this policy

### **Intermediate Teacher's Report – Chris Wilson**

- We would like to start off by recognizing that although this meeting is taking place virtually, we are doing so from the comfort of our homes which are on unceded, unsundered Algonquin Anishinaabe territory.
- We also wanted to welcome John as our new VP in charge of the Intermediate section and to welcome back Matt.
- It's been a relatively successful first two months of the school year. Although we lost one grade 7 French Immersion class and two staff members during a reorganization last month, students and staff have settled into their new schedules and classes.
- Following Covid protocols, supporting strong mental health and working together to build resilience and positive relationships continues to be our focus but we are also engaging in some fun learning activities.
- 8a and 8b participated in songwriting workshops with Craig Cardiff to huge success and learning. Some songs will be appearing on Spotify next month. All funds will go to the education foundation.
- Educators have noticed that students are lacking their de-escalation and related social skills, given lack of practice during pandemic; working with students on that
- All grade 8 students will be starting a slam poetry unit. Last year we hosted a virtual event, this year logistics are being worked out for the presentation.
- The four grade 7 French Immersion classes are participating in online taekwondo classes once every two weeks during their regularly scheduled Phys-ed classes. The classes are

being run by local company Tae E. Lee Taekwondo and are being paid for by the Korean embassy.

- As a summative project for our grade 7 Science unit on Structures, F7A, F7B and F7C have recently started a project where they are building stools out of newspapers and masking tape and then testing them by seeing if they can withstand having a student sit on them for a minute.
- Procedure established for tracking/tracing individuals doing group work
- Remembrance Day ceremonies will be online again this year
- Parent-teacher meetings being held 10 and 12 November
- Unfortunately we are still not allowed to have extracurricular activities (as Gr. 7-8 still part of elementary school), but are hopeful the Board will reassess this policy in the near future.
- Could the School Council please support our library and purchase a set of the Red Maple and White Pine nominated books this year? Each set is 10 fiction books written by Canadian authors. They cost about \$120 per set. We are not running the competition but they offer excellent, relevant books for our library. Red Maple is Gr 6-9 and White Pine is Gr 9-12. Council approved allocating \$300 for one set each of Red Maple and White Pine books.
- At the start of this year, we lost 80 Chromebooks, because they were older models and the Board isn't updating them anymore. Also, around 10 Chromebooks were damaged when they were sent home with students during at-home learning the past two years. These losses have impacted our ability to ensure every student has access to a device during lessons which require them, and the Intermediate staff was wondering if there is anything we can do to help fundraise money for the school once again.

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

- See Principal's report

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

- Thank you to our staff for their continued efforts, adaptations, and work through our modified semester, IEP writing, report cards, and communications with families.
- We appreciate your continued support as parents, guardians and caregivers in helping your children follow safe COVID practices at home.
- Based on OPH consultation and OCDSB Direction, we are gradually resuming in-person extracurricular and athletics as are possible (difference between 7-8 and 9-12 models) – we are moving ahead where it is possible
- The district is exploring the resumption of limited in-person extracurricular activities for Intermediate students and is working with OPH. We are awaiting for any possible changes.
- Fall sports resumed for high school (Golf, Cross Country, Tennis, Girls Field Hockey, Flag Rugby 7's, Sr. Girls Basketball, Jr Girls Basketball, Sr Boys Volleyball)
- Starting some clubs (Student Leadership/Governance/equity) in-person with additional safety requirements
- Successful Student Council Halloween Event ("Mystery of Bolt the Bengal")
- Winter Sports (Jr. and Sr. Boys basketball, Sr girls volleyball, alpine and possibly curling)
- Some families have been inquiring about photo days - the district priority was for graduating students; this is expected to be completed in December. Protocols will be developed for regular photos, with hopes to begin this in the new year. We will send an update when we have scheduled to let families know, if/when we get permission.

- OSSLT for Grade 11 students in November, Grade 10 students this Spring; exempt for Grade 12 and potential graduating students. Test now conducted on Chromebooks.
- Fall Undergrad Recognition Awards – being given out to students in homerooms next week for previous year.
- High School students and staff are awaiting possible announcements from the Ministry around moving from the modified semester schedule to the regular semester schedule (four periods per day) for Semester 2 - OCDSB will communicate if there are changes, likely in December
- IEPs were sent home on October 22, and Intermediate progress reports were sent home last week. Intermediate parent teacher interviews are this week.
- High school mid semester report cards are coming up on November 23. Parent teacher interviews will be scheduled on Nov 25 or Nov 30, depending on teacher schedules. An electronic booking link will be shared.
- With colder weather on the way, a reminder especially for Intermediate students to dress appropriately for the weather. We only have students inside if there is an Extreme Cold Weather Advisory issued by the city (-25 or below).
- Thank you in advance to Mr. Shea who put together this year's Virtual Remembrance Day ceremony. Students and staff will be participating on Thursday morning.
- A reminder for students to bring a spare mask to school and their water bottle.
- Finally a PA Day will occur this Friday November 12 for all staff (grade 7-12) - the focus is on Human Rights, Learning Conditions, and Student Safety. There is no school for students.
- As always, if you have any questions please reach out to your child's teacher.

#### **School Council Report 2020-21 – Carmen Parsons**

- The report for last year includes agenda and minutes of last year's meetings, plus the end of year financial summary
- Will go up on the school website

#### **OCASC Representative's Report - Vacant**

- Information on monthly meetings are available at <https://ocasc.ca/>

#### **Any other business / Discussion**

- There was a school email about students potentially attending Merivale or Colonel By Drive High Schools; note that this is about applications to the International Baccalaureate program
- Frequent emails on daily progress from last year provided really useful information; any way that this could continue? Answer: this varies from teacher to teacher and grade to grade. You can ask your child's teacher to be added Google Classroom notifications or other distribution lists

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm