

Minutes

Sir Robert Borden High School Council

March 8, 2022

A virtual meeting of the Sir Robert Borden High School Council was held on Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00 PM through Google Meet.

Present (based on Google Meet user names)

Carmen Parsons, Chair Matt Gagnier, Principal Christine Rankin, Vice-Principal Kathryn Ferris Emilene Ordeman, Secretary Heike Payne Mohammad Nassiri Ari T A McEachern Brenda Asselstine	Darcy Peters Jen Hubbard Sahra Hassan Sharon Creasey Kelly Duong Lisa Eun Joo Jeong Mary Ellen Dempster Yasin Alhussen
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Approval of Agenda

- Agenda was approved unchanged

Approval of minutes from January

- The minutes from January were approved unchanged

OCDSB currently offering PRO Grant to support speakers. SRB can sponsor events, or parents can join various sessions hosted by other schools across OCDSB.

Student Report for Grades 9-12 – Himani Parajuli

- Absent, see Principal's report for High School news

Intermediate Teacher's Report – Kathryn Ferris

- Six different classes plus two others working with Craig Cardiff, creating soundscapes and songs
- Grade 8 – Slam Jam poetry in early Feb – two presentations from each class on Black Lives Matter awareness, LGBTQ rights, importance of self, eating cake
- Arrival of Red Maple books – very popular with students this year
- Gym – volleyball, basketball, kin ball, floor hockey; upcoming: cooperative games
- Shared Experience Group – EAs Mr. E, Ms. B and Ms. King worked with students to share their voices on experiences – coming to Canada from other countries
- Gr. 8 students training on Xello to plan career paths for Gr. 9
- Fall planning - music program, rotary schedule (where students and not teachers move) – depending on pandemic posture, there may be more clarity closer to June

Questions on ESL, additional help for newcomers

- ESL for Gr. 7 and 8 – evaluation of student's English for placement in a stepped program (steps 1-7). Support includes in-class support or withdrawal support to offer differentiated program outside the classroom

For Gr. 9-12: All teachers have training on how to adjust teaching approach for different learners

- No ESL courses, but a multilingual coach is available to help, provide tips and strategies
- Students can make a guidance appointment to discuss individual approaches
- Limited club activities, so it's difficult to get immersed in community activities at the moment

High school Teacher's Report – Vacant

- See Principal's report

OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) overview – Christine Rankin, Vice-Principal

- OSSLT is a graduation requirement. Testing will take place April 6th.
- See attached presentation and eqao.com for more information (website has sample questions)

Principal's Report and Financial Report – Matt Gagnier, Principal

COVID Updates

- Lots of changes provincially since our last meeting (we were working remotely, then came back in-person)
- Extracurricular activities and Athletics have resumed in-person where we have supervision possible
- Ministry of Education is now allowing students to remove their masks outside; staff are able to remove their masks outside where 2m distance is possible. We are still encouraging mask use outside where 2m is not possible. Masks are still required indoors.
- Reminder that the education sector has their own parameters compared to the general public in Ontario. If and when we receive new direction from the Ministry of Education, school boards/schools will look at changes as they come.
- Rapid Antigen tests were distributed in early February to Grade 7-12 students. Should individual students need to replenish the supply, we do have some in the main office on a per need basis. The intent behind the rapid antigen tests were to end 5 day quarantine for assumed COVID (based on failing the screening tool) early based on receiving two negative test results taken at least 24 hours apart
- OCV - The Virtual school will continue to exist next year. Intent to register deadline was on February 22. Information is needed at this time to allow all schools in the system to staff accordingly.

Transportation next year

If your child has been accessing OSTA (Ottawa Student Transportation Authority) to travel to school via OC Transpo or our "Yellow/Coach" bus, OSTA is asking you to complete a new transportation confirmation process to help with planning for the next school year. (This is for planning purposes, partly in response to the bus driver shortage experienced this year.) Anyone who is eligible for transportation needs to complete the confirmation by April 3. [More information is available through this flyer.](#) Any student in specialized program classes (LDP or ASDP), there is a separate process and families who access these specialized classes do not need to complete this process.

Mandatory E-Learning

- As you may have heard the Ministry of Education has introduced mandatory e-learning graduation requirements, effective for students who began Grade 9 in September 2020 (this year's grade 10 cohort).
 - Two credits as part of the 30 required credits to graduate will now be required via the e-learning model. An e-learning course is an asynchronous delivery model (not the same thing as live streaming or virtual learning similar to OCV). School boards have offered e-learning over the past 10 years so this format of learning is not new. Students in e-learning would need to work more independently through a course shell in which content, tasks, etc. are available. A classroom teacher would be available asynchronously (not live) to support the student's learning, however this looks very different compared to an in-class/live teaching model. The OCDSB does have a large offering of e-learning courses, including access to courses offered across the province through a consortium that the OCDSB is part of.
 - While this is a new graduation requirement, there is an opt out process for families who have students who do not wish to do an e-learning course.
 - Current Grade 11 and 12 students are not required to meet this requirement
 - Current Grade 10 students will receive prior equivalency for 1 of the 2 required credits, given remote learning that occurred last year. (i.e. they will still need to do 1 e-learning course over their time in high school or opt out of the requirement)
 - Current Grade 9 students (and incoming Grade 9 students next year) would be required to complete 2 credits via e-learning over their time in high school (or opt-out).
 - Student Services sent information out to families; if you have further questions please contact your child's guidance counselor if you are interested in an e-learning course.
 - On opting out: students should be able to opt out later on.
 - Wide range of e-learning courses, available in Reach Ahead summer courses
 - Students with IEPs: Individual Education Plans are legal documents; will work with students on their individual needs.
 - On scheduling: in students' timetable, it will look like they have an empty slot, but actually have an e-learning course scheduled. Students would have more flexibility in their timetable (can even arrive later if they have an e-learning course in first block or leave early if course is in last block).

School Updates

- Intermediate Grade 8 students as well as High school students have completed course selection for next year. Student Services is following up with individual students. We will begin the timetabling process in the spring once schools receive our initial allocation. Student timetables do not go out to students until the first day of school for next year. Summer school information will be available later this spring.
- Our school has a new Rideauwood Counsellor. Rideauwood is one of our community partners, and offers supports to students and their families who are struggling with substance use, behavioral issues, and related mental health concerns. Rideauwood provides confidential counseling to students who are at risk of using, actively using, in recovery, affected by someone else's substance use. This is a confidential service available to grade 7-12 students - referrals can come from school guidance counselors, school administration, teachers, parents, or self. For more information please contact guidance/school admin.

- Secondary Athletics has started back up - Jr Boys and Jr Girls Volleyball have started. Badminton will be starting after March Break. Senior Boys Basketball is in the middle of the season which resumed after the pause.
- Student's Council continues to play events in the school - including a wellness week as we headed into Semester 2, Grade based games at lunch, and a Spirit Week in February with an Olympics theme.
- Looking ahead to September, right now we are slated for approximately the same size of student population as this year (~700 students in high school and ~360 students in Intermediate)
- Our virtual welcome to high school event at the end of January was very well attended. We will be hosting a Welcome to Grade 7 night for current grade 6 families from our feeder schools during early May, information to be sent in April. Families new to OCDSB can register, and will receive information on the welcome night session.
- Ottawa Public Health will be setting up Immunization Clinics for Grade 7-8 students, from March 28-March 30 - We will be communicating more information right after the March Break to Grade 7 and 8 families on behalf of Ottawa Public Health
- More information will be forthcoming in the spring regarding Celebr8 (Grade 8 Celebration/ Recognition) once we receive parameters from the OCDSB.
- We are now back to a regular 4 period per day Semester schedule - students and staff have settled well into these routines. Please note there will be no exams this coming June as we are still in a modified school year. Teachers will be basing their marks on 100% term work.
- Progress Reports are back for High School Students - they are taking a different, more personalized approach this year. Individual teachers will be reaching out by the end of this week (March 11) to provide a progress communication. A reminder that this is not a formal report card so there will not be a percentage grade; it is an early indication if the student is progressing well or progressing with some difficulty (a snapshot at this point).
- Parent Teacher Interviews are coming up for Secondary Schools - they will be on Thursday March 24, virtually. We will be sending a communication home on Friday March 11 before the break so parents can sign up for virtual appointments using the same booking system that we have been using.
- Photos occurred last week at the school for grade 7-12 students. We will be having a Photo Retake day for students who were absent or if they require a retake on Monday April 4. More information about ordering photo packages will be coming once we receive the proofs from the photo company.

Grad Update:

- Grad Photo retakes also occurred last week. Grad Yearbook orders are also due and the order will be placed before March Break. A group of Grade 12 students and Mr. Shea have been working away on this year's grad yearbook.
- Spring is just around the corner and we are planning for in-person Commencement similar to last year (where we had groups of students coming in to cross the stage, getting a cap+gown, with a couple of guests, have photo opportunities with family/friends outside, etc.). We will be communicating preliminary commencement plans with grads and their families as we head into spring. We need to be mindful of planning for this event as there are different comfort levels for the size of in-person events as we serve a wide range of families and students. We will continue to build on the success of the planning from last year within the parameters provided, consideration of equity, and operational realities. More information to come.
- We are looking at introducing a voluntary grad fee (likely \$20-30) to cover costs associated with graduation this year (given that there were no student activity fees collected this year). Costs would go towards caps+gowns+decorations.
- Deadline for grad yearbooks due this week.

Financial:

- Latest statement is provided - \$2000 in the bank for school council, reflects the money given to support literacy/books to the intermediate team.
- If there are any spending ideas or proposals for the benefit of the school, please bring them forward to Council.

Thank you's

- Thank you to our Social Justice Club and to Ms. Mroz on their efforts to support Black History and Legacy Month - each week students had videos/conversation starters in each classroom to bring various perspectives and voices from SRB students about creating belonging in the classroom, allyship, advocacy, and representation. Our intermediate students also continue to meet through the Shared Experience Group to discuss equity and inclusion.
- Thank you to our SRB students and families who donated to the Education Foundation as part of Toonie Tuesday - SRB raised over \$600 during this event. This money helps support school breakfast programs at SRB as well as across the district, and supports individual families in need as well.
- Lastly - I wanted to express my gratitude to our staff for all the pivoting, twists and turns that this year has brought - helping students maintain consistent routines, provide a calming atmosphere, and focusing on learning, in addition to volunteering their time and efforts to create additional extracurricular opportunities where possible for students has really helped make this year continue to be successful.

OCASC Representative's Report - Vacant

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

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm