

Minutes

Sir Robert Borden High School Council

January 15, 2013

A regular meeting of the Sir Robert Borden High School Council was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 19:00 hours in the library at Sir Robert Borden High School, 131 Greenbank Road, Ottawa.

Present:

Joanie Asch (Secretary)	Jennifer Melnilcoff
Meredith Ball	Samira Ouaz
Neil Blacher	Heike Payne
Carolyn Eckersley (Chair)	Kristin Riddell
Ismail Elmi	Robin Roscoe
Stan Farber	Judy Smith
Bessie Giovanopoulos	Wendy Verreault
S. Gupta	Nirene Wilson
Louise Halpenny	James Wright
Marcia Hayes	Henri Xie
Steve Jackson	Nancy Young
Jessica Keats	

Jane Lang

1. Call to Order

Carolyn Eckersley called the meeting to order at 19:06 hours.

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Bessie Giovanopoulos, seconded by Nirene Wilson, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2012 meeting. CARRIED.

Moved by Bessie Giovanopoulos, seconded by Nancy Young, to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2012 meeting. CARRIED.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

4. Student Report

Nirene Wilson reported that Casino Night had been a huge success. The large turnout raised over \$1,500. There will be a Much Music video dance on February 14. There is a possibility of a joint spring dance with Merivale High School. The next Spirit Week will have a Survivor theme, with each grade being a tribe. A raffle will be held, and the winner will be crowned King for a Day. This will include chauffeured drives to and from school, lunch provided, etc.

The information night for prospective grade 9 students will be on January 17. Student Council and Link Crew members will be on hand.

In response to a query. Ms. Verreault advised that a breathalyzer would be used if a student was suspected of having consumed alcohol. This is standard practice at all events. The procedure

would be that the suspected student would be taken to the office, and a call would be made to his/her parent, asking for permission to administer a breathalyzer test.

5. Vice Principals' Reports

Kristin Riddell discussed the upcoming grade 9 information night, noting that department heads and guidance staff would be on hand.

Steve Jackson reviewed some minor changes to the courses listed in the 2013-2014 Secondary School Courses brochure. He noted that some changes were made after the brochure had gone to print. However, the online version on the OCDSB website (available at <http://www.ocdsb.ca/med/pub/Publications%20%20Updated/SCB.pdf>) will have up to date information, and be the definitive source.

6. Non-Teaching Staff Report

James Wright noted Building Supervisor Amanda Schiemman is back at work. He also introduced Jeff Jansen as the night supervisor. No serious issues were identified following a Health and Safety audit.

A concern was expressed regarding limited visibility for traffic at the front of the school, due to the large pile of snow that had been deposited there. This will be addressed with the snow-clearing contractor.

7. Teaching Staff Report

Meredith Ball had nothing to report.

8. Principal's Report

Wendy Verreault advised that labour issues with teaching staff continue. Summatives will be due shortly, and ZAP (Zeroes Aren't Permitted) tests will be held soon as well. Exams are coming up in less than two weeks. Marks are due by February 8, which will be in time for uploading to the OUAC and OCAS websites for post-secondary application processing. Report cards will be issued February 13-14. Parent-teacher interviews will be held on March 27.

The Mystery Theatre event has been moved to February 7.

Six to eight parent volunteers are needed for the February 14 school dance. In addition to the parents volunteers, there will be two police officers and three administration staff on hand. Interested parents should email the principal (wendy.verreault@ocdsb.ca). Link Crew leaders will be encouraging their grade 9 Linkies to attend.

9. Secondary School Council Update

Bessie Giovanopoulos reported that at last week's Secondary School Council meeting (held the second Thursday of each month), the Board provided a presentation on the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELFP) (<http://www.ambafrance-ca.org/article1533.html>), which is a French language skills certification program administered by the Embassy of France in countries around the world. The meeting also included a presentation on the Do it for Darren youth mental health program (<http://www.difd.com/>).

In addition, the SSC had undertaken a survey on prom practices, but the results were not available as of the meeting date. This information should be available at the next SRB Council meeting in March.

10. Other Business

a) School Council Expenditure Planning

Carolyn Eckersley advised that there is a balance of \$827.50 in the Council account. It was suggested that some of these funds be used to purchase a small token of appreciation for all the parent volunteers, or perhaps hold an appreciation breakfast for them. Wendy Verreault will research these ideas and report back.

It was reported that there is only one functioning microwave oven in the cafeteria. It was agreed to purchase two additional microwave ovens as soon as possible.

Moved by Joanie Asch, seconded by Nancy Young, that to \$400 of Council funds be approved for spending on the purchase of microwave ovens for the school cafeteria. CARRIED.

b) Student Workload Coordination

Bessie Giovanopoulos expressed concern about workload demands, noting that there are occasions when summatives, tests and assignments fall within a short timeframe. She asked if there could be some coordination by teachers to better pace the related workload. Wendy Verreault noted that she had raised this at a meeting of Department Heads. She advised that there is a huge variety of assessments, but it may be possible to schedule summatives in a similar fashion to exams.

There were also questions regarding the SRB practice of not returning tests to students, who could benefit from reviewing their mistakes. Wendy Verreault noted that some courses with multiple sections had created exam banks and allowing students to keep the exams would compromise the exam questions used. She agreed to survey staff regarding which tests are not returned, and why. It was noted that summatives and exams are never returned, but students may request to see them in class, with their teacher present. Bessie Giovannopoulos recommended that all tests be returned to all students.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 21:06 hours.

Minutes approved by:

Carolyn Eckersley ,Chair

Joanie Asch, Secretary