

Minutes

Sir Robert Borden High School Council

May 7, 2013

A regular meeting of the Sir Robert Borden High School Council was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 19:00 hours in the library at Sir Robert Borden High School, 131 Greenbank Road, Ottawa.

Present:

Bob Albert	Lyn Hall
Tracy Albert	Louise Halpenny
Ronda Annett	Jennifer Harmon
Joanie Asch (Secretary)	Marcia Hayes
Jill Badgery	Steve Jackson
Meredith Ball	Carolyn Matson
Neil Blacher	Samira Ouaz
Michael Blakely	Kristin Riddell
Ansel Clarke	Paula Shaver
Carolyn Eckersley (Chair)	Uzma Syeda
Caroline Esmonde-White	Wendy Verreault
Stan Farber	James Wright
Mansour Gihaz	Donna Yackoboski
Bessie Giovanopoulos	

1. Call to Order

Carolyn Eckersley called the meeting to order at 19:02 hours.

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Bessie Giovanopoulos, seconded by Meredith Ball, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013 meeting. CARRIED.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

4. Student Report

Caroline Esmonde-White, attending on behalf of Nirene Wilson, reported that \$1100 was raised at the coffee house. Two-thirds of the funds raised will be donated to Free the Children, and one-third will be donated to the Education Foundation of Ottawa. Spirit Week will take place from May 27-31, with a Battle of the Grades theme. A legacy trophy will be the prize. Different spirit day themes will include colour wars, thrift shop, twin day, beach day and Borden pride day. Games will take place at lunch in the foyer and outside on the field.

5. Teaching Staff Report

Meredith Ball had nothing to report.

6. Non-Teaching Staff Report

James Wright noted that Beth Johnson had finished her two year sabbatical and is retiring. Toni Bernard is now officially replacing Beth as the Office Administrator. Deborah Dixie Smith has transferred to South Carleton High School, and Amanda Schiemann, the Chief Custodian, has returned to SRB following an absence. All of the issues relating to fans and shields in the mechanical room have been addressed, and proper signage is in place.

7. Principals' Report

Steve Jackson provided information on enrolment and scheduling for next year. Enrolment is projected to be 830, and the 8-year decline in enrolment continues. There will be 54 FTE teaching staff. Enriched courses will be offered for grades 9 and 10, as well as a grade 12 advanced calculus class. 40 transfer students are included in the projected enrolment, most of whom will be entering grade 9. In response to a query, it is anticipated that there will be two more years of declining enrolment before the numbers level out and stabilize.

Wendy Verreault advised that Judy Howard and Marjory Casey-Rivenell are retiring, and Dan Case is moving to Lisgar. Three teachers who were on leave will be returning. No teachers have been declared surplus.

Parent-teacher interviews went well, as did the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. Only three students missed the test. Results will be provided to the school on June 19, and mailed out to parents with the year-end report cards. Those students who were unsuccessful on the test will be notified before the end of June.

In response to the concern raised at Council regarding too many summatives/deliverables/tests in a very short period, teachers now complete a sheet with their requirements. This will help avoid multiple assignments due at the same time.

The Exit Outcomes document was distributed, and Council members were encouraged to provide feedback. Parents were asked to read the document and complete the online response form (found on the OCDSB website). In response to a query, the graduation rate will be researched and provided at the next meeting.

90% of students participated in the recent survey on school climate, bullying, resources at home, etc. This survey is held every two years.

Invitations to the graduation ceremony are going out this week. On June 4 there will be a breakfast honouring volunteers, followed by the athletic award ceremony.

Lockers will be assigned to students in grades 9-11 at the end of May. There will be a lottery for the assignment of grade 12 lockers.

8. Secondary School Council Update

Bessie Giovanopoulos reported that there had been a 66% graduation rate across the Board. After a 4-5 year focus on student success, the graduation rate now stands at 82%. It was reported that one in five students have experienced a mental health issue, either personally or a close family member.

The next SSC meeting will be at 7 PM on May 23 at Fisher Park School.

On behalf of Council, Carolyn Eckersley thanked Bessie for her years of service and the excellent liaison between SRB and the SSC.

