

Minutes

Sir Robert Borden High School Council

September 11, 2012

A regular meeting of the Sir Robert Borden High School Council was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 19:00 hours in the library at Sir Robert Borden High School, 131 Greenbank Road, Ottawa.

Present:	Ronda Annett	Leslie Markey
	Joanie Asch (Secretary)	Carolyn Matson
	Jill Badgery	Lionel Moser
	Meredith Ball	Samira Ouaz
	Neil Blacher	Brenda Packman
	Sonya Boersma	Heike Payne
	Marietta Bravo	Kristin Riddell
	Carolyn Eckersley (Chair)	Robin Roscoe
	Ismail Elmi	Paula Shaver
	Gerry Gauthier	Amy Sirotek
	Bessie Giovanopoulos	Judy Smith
	Susan Griffin	Wendy Verreault
	Louise Halpenny	Nirene Wilson
	Jennifer Harmon	James Wright
	Steve Jackson	Nancy Young
	Jessica Keats	Linda Zimolong

1. Call to Order

Carolyn Eckersley called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours. She welcomed the members, noting that Meredith Ball is the 2012-2013 teaching representative and James Wright is the non-teaching representative on the school council. She noted that September 27 is the Meet the Teacher night, and the next School Council meeting will be on November 6.

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by James Wright, seconded by Nancy Young, to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2012 meeting as amended. CARRIED.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

4. Student Report

Nirene Wilson reported that a dance was scheduled for October, and the grad auction was scheduled for October 12. Casino Night would be held on December 14. Showcase (a talent show) is scheduled for March 1. There will be a Battle of the Bands in the foyer over lunch hour during the week of May 27 – 31, and a BBQ and movie night on May 31.

There will be two spirit weeks during the school year: October 9-12, and May 27-31.

The school has a mascot this year, and a contest will take place to choose a name. Link Crew oversaw a successful orientation for the grade 9 students.

5. Teaching Staff Report

Meredith Ball noted that there was no strike or job action taking place, but teachers were withdrawing from volunteer activities. Teachers are making individual decisions about withdrawal of volunteer services. It was noted that any activities that would receive a credit (e.g. band, outdoor education, etc.) would continue, as these are not volunteer activities.

6. Non-Teaching Staff Report

James Wright noted that black would be worn the next day, in support of the teachers. He discussed the need for the SRB parents to agree to receive School Council emails, and advised that School Council members who wished to be included on a distribution list could let him know at james.wright@ocdsb.ca.

The Occupational Health and Safety Committee noted the cleanliness of the school, following the use by 1200 summer school students. Council extended their appreciation to custodial staff for a job well done. Occupational Health and Safety reports are posted in the staff room.

7. Presentation: Susan Griffin

Susan Griffin provided an overview of guidance, special education and student success programs at SRB. She noted that the Guidance Department provides educational, personal and career counseling, and noted the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) and dual credit (high school + Algonquin College) courses available to SRB students.

November 7 is Take Your Kid to Work day for grade 9 students.

The Guidance Department consists of two counselors. Mary Anne Mayhew is responsible for students whose surnames start with A – K plus all LD students, and Mark Mullins is responsible for students whose surnames start with L – Z. The same division applies to the Vice Principals: Steve Jackson is responsible for the A – K students, and Kristin Riddell for the L – Z students.

Referrals can be made to the school psychologist, social worker and other support personnel. This would be for short-term counseling. If longer term support is needed, then referrals to community-based resources is provided.

8. Principal's Report

Wendy Verreault advised that upgrades to the school included a new gym floor and new external signage. The school year had started smoothly, with 871 students registered.

Ms. Verreault noted that student attendance is linked to student success. If a student is absent without notice, a synervoice message is sent to the parents of the student. Parents are asked to notify the school office (Kimberley.Wilson@ocdsb.ca or carol.darby@ocdsb.ca) if their child will be absent.

Class assemblies will be held on Thursday, and school photos are scheduled for September 14.

In response to a concern expressed regarding the new locks, Mr. Jackson noted that these locks require precision.

Council members expressed concerns regarding the procedures for locker assignments and timetable pick-ups. Principal Verreault asked the Student Council Representative to consult with Student Council Representatives and provide recommendations.

9. School Council Elections

Elections for members at large were held for the 2012-2013 school council. The following slate of members at large were acclaimed.

Ronda Annett	Leslie Merkey
Jill Badgery	Samira Ouaz
Neil Blacher	Paula Shaver
Ismail Elmi	Judy Smith
Stan Farber	Elizabeth Steel
Louise Halpenny	Nancy Young

CARRIED.

10. Secondary School Council Update

Bessie Giovanopoulos noted that the Secondary School Council meets every second Thursday of each month. A growing concern regarding the calculation of marks was noted, particularly the lack of transparency of marks on report cards. A parent information session is being organized by the District School Board for the end of May 2013. Information on this topic may be added to the information night at SRB in late November.

11. Prom

A discussion ensued regarding prom. Joanie Asch and Sonya Boersma noted that the current system of student-planned prom events resulted in lack of parental information or involvement until a point at which it was too late to have any opportunity to make changes. Currently, Grade 11 student prom representatives are appointed in April, and commitments for venues are made in May/June. The current process of having the "after party" located in Quebec, where it is possible for some underage students to consume alcohol, was outlined. In addition, the cost of having a dinner/dance at an Ottawa venue, followed by an after-party at a Quebec location, with resulting costs, was discussed. It was noted that the cost of attending the SRB prom in June 2012 was \$160 for the ticket, but that other costs (prom dresses / tuxedos; after-party clothing; etc.) results in costs that are not affordable for a number of students.

School Council asked B. Giovanopoulos to raise this at the next Secondary School Council meeting, as it would appear this is a district-wide issue.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 21:05 hours.

Minutes approved by:

Carolyn Eckersley ,Chair

Joanie Asch, Secretary