

# Minutes

## Sir Robert Borden High School Council

### November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

A regular meeting of the Sir Robert Borden High School was held on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 19:00 hours in the library at Sir Robert Borden High School, 131 Greenbank Road, Ottawa.

Present:

Ronda Annett	Heike Payne
Meredith Ball	Kristin Riddell
Neil Blacher	Paula Shaver
Carolyn Eckersley (Chair)	Wendy Verreault (Acting Secretary)
Ismail Emli	Nirene Wilson
Stan Farber	James Wright
Lionel Moser	Nancy Young
Samira Ouaz	
Bessie Giovanopoulos	
Louise Halpenny	
Steve Jackson	

#### 1. Call to Order

Carolyn Eckersley called the meeting to order at 19:05 hours.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

In that they were not available, the approval of the September minutes was deferred.

#### 3. Student Report

Nirene Wilson reported:

- After a student rally and poll, the SRB mascot had been named "Bolt the Bengal".
- The recent Movie Night/Barbeque/Bake Sale was a great success yielding a \$450 profit.
- Spirit Week ran from Oct.29<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many students dressed up and participated.
- The Art Reps have been elected and some excellent banner art has been produced.
- Student Council is planning a Casino Night for December 7<sup>th</sup>. This evening of fun will include Las Vegas style games such as Poker and Black Jack. Students will be looking for sponsors for prizes. In addition to the three SRB Administration volunteers, six parent volunteers (three male and three female) are needed.
- A Much Music Video Dance Party is being planned for February 14<sup>th</sup>.

It was noted that any parent volunteer would be required to have had a Police Background Check within the last year and that they would work in closely with the Administrative staff at all times.

#### 5. Teaching Staff Report

Ms. Meredith Ball provided the Council with an update on the Library. SRB Librarian Ms. Saunders has a number of initiatives under way such as offering printing services (\$0.50/page for colour and \$0.10/page for black and white). There is a Scholastic Book Order program geared towards teenagers in place at SRB with proceeds going to fund the acquisition of books for the library. It was noted that SRB welcomes the donation of books that are in good condition.

## 5. **Non-Teaching Staff Report**

Mr. James Wright reported:

- Ms. Wilson is on leave to participate in building a Habit for Humanity home
- The SRB AV Crew received a special thank you note from Mike Carson the CFO of OCDSB for their support in staging a recent OCDSB Administration Meeting.
- The SRB Chief Custodian is on leave until further notice and Rocky Stevens and Terry Presley have stepped up to cover the absence.
- SRB has met all Ministry of Labour requirements for Occupational Health and Safety and monthly audit results are posted in the Staff Room.

## 6. **Principals' Reports**

Vice Principal Kristen Riddell reported:

- SRB currently is working with seven student teachers until the end of November. An associate teacher is always in the class with the student teacher. Related support and development is being provided by the Vice Principals in a clinic format after school.
- The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for Grade 10 students will take place on April 11, 2013. Passing this test is a condition of high school graduation. A program run by Ms. Riddell will provide additional, focused support to students who were previously identified as being in need of assistance. Current Grade 9 students will participate in a practice test to identify those who would benefit from assistance. The SRB website will have more information on this program as it develops.

Vice Principal Steve Jackson reported:

- Teachers and (one!) VP are participating in Movember in support of Men's Health issues.
- An update to the SRB website is planned that includes a technology update and further use of WIKIs, PB Works and Google tools. Features such as (secure) online attendance reporting and booking guidance appointments are being considered.
- A student-organized "Celebration of Culture" is being planned for Friday November 30<sup>th</sup>. The evening will include an international food fair and cultural displays in the foyer followed by cultural performances in the auditorium. Proceeds from this event will go to the "Girl Be Ambitious" fund, which encourages girls in Cambodia to escape poverty and avoid the sex trade through education. The students are looking for connections to community cultural organizations and seeking support through donations. Parent volunteers are needed to assist with the rehearsals. More information will be posted on the website and shared through the Synervoice system.
- On November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, the OCDSB will be holding their next Speaker Series presentation at SRB on the topic of Helping Your Child With Math.

Principal Wendy Verreault reported:

- Parent –Teacher interviews were well attended and positive.
- On November 1<sup>st</sup> the Annual SRB Awards Ceremony was held. Certificates of Honour were awarded to 180 students who achieved 80% or greater in eight course for Grade 9 and 10 and seven courses for Grade 11—all taken at SRB. Of those 180 students, 75 earned Silver Medals for exceeding 90%.
- The student-centred Math support program (formerly known as MOB) has evolved into MASH – Math and Academic Student Help. Providing support in Math, Science and other academic subjects, this support group is run by student volunteers after school from Monday to Wednesday. Additional sessions will be run in December and January in anticipation of exams.
- Remembrance Day Ceremony will feature a "What If..." motif that will explore the impacts of war and tie to themes such as bullying, repercussions of inaction etc.
- Mystery Theatre Night has been postponed to Thursday February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Dates to remember: Term 1 ends on November 7<sup>th</sup>; Grad Photos start November 7<sup>th</sup>; November 16<sup>th</sup> is a PD Day; and, Report Cards will be issued on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3PM.

**7. Secondary School Council (SSC) Update**

The Council's SSC representative Bessie Giovanopoulos attended the October 11<sup>th</sup> SSC meeting on the Council's behalf. She reported that OCDSB's Associate Director of Education Walter Piovasan spoke about the Board's policies on the Extra Curricular activities and the use of Volunteers in light of the Bill 115 issues. There was not sufficient time for the group to discuss what is happening at other high school with respect to Prom activities (not OCDSB sanctioned) so this item was deferred to the January meeting. Bessie indicated that membership dues are \$35.00 again this year.

**8. Other Business**

COUNCIL FINANCES: A summary of the Council Finances was included with the agenda. The Council current balance is \$462.50. The Council has received its annual grant of \$500 funding for Parent Involvement Activities. The cheque was given to Wendy Verreault for deposit into the Council account that is held by within the School's financial system, bringing the available funds to \$962.50.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Fall events are wrapping up and SRB was fortunate to have run almost all sports, clubs and many regular activities. Parent volunteers are being sought for Winter Sports; details are posted on the SRB website.

LABOUR RELATIONS ISSUES: The November 2<sup>nd</sup> update from OCDSB's Director of Education, Dr. Adams, was attached to the agenda and briefly discussed. As of November 12<sup>th</sup>, six of the nine bargaining units will be in a legal strike position. The School will keep parents abreast of the impact of any service withdrawal as the situation develops.

COUNCIL EXPENDITURE PLANNING: A discussion was held as to how the Council might encourage parental involvement. The group agreed that it was appropriate to consider a Volunteer Recognition Program. Various options were discussed and pricing will be sought to assess the viability of the different options at the next Council meeting.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT: On Tuesday November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in the SRB Auditorium from 7:00 PM to 9:00PM there will be a presentation on "Applying for Post-Secondary Education". The SRB Guidance Department will present an overview of the process of applying for college and university. In addition to topics such as submission requirements, the presentation will include insight into the many types of financial assistance available such scholarships, grants and bursaries. While geared towards Grade 12 families, it is highly recommended for Grade 11 families too.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 20:50 hours.

Minutes approved by:

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Carolyn Eckersley ,Chair

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Joanie Asch, Secretary