

Bur Oak Secondary School

Meeting Minutes of 1st School Council Meeting (September 19, 2022)

School Council meeting: September 19, 2022

Time: September 19, 2022 06:30 PM - 08:00 PM

Place: Bur Oak SS library (also known as the Learning Commons)

Participants:

School Leadership: Louis Lim, Vanessa Wonnacott, Mark Melnyk,

Teacher representative: Gillian Andersen

Student Council Representative: Manav Varma

Parents/Guardians: Loretta Lee, Lethy Cheng, Yasmin Sinanan, Huanxing Zhou, Bernice Chan, Christy Jiao, Winnie Huang, Carol Pan, Joe Ferraro, Lamia Bouakline, Nasreddine Hireche, Kamalbil Singh, Tim Lam, Ivy Chan, Naceur Fetita, Leila Araar, Fai Mat, Yamiui Varma, Deepak Varma, Jawaid Uppal, Lisa Wu, Ayesha Bashir, Jaspreet Kaur, Harpreet Singh, Raj Thiru, Aileen Chan Vickers + Mark Vickers, Yolanda Tse, Babu Mari, Shirley Deng, Michele + Neil Daye, Liz Kostakis, Terasa Vrzsouski, Yvonne Ng, Eric Hua, Farrukh Shafiq, Farhan Zia, Sarwar Nadeem, Rachna Kanhai, Tina Sharma, Raghad Abuowaimir, Krishna Kumar, Praseetha Surendran, Hayden Xia, Willa Zhang

Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Land Acknowledgement**
- **Participants Brief Self-introduction**
- **Guidance Update**

1. Counsellors:

Ms. Gillian Andersen

Alpha: A-H, Special Education Gr 10 & 12

Ms. Ruth Macsween

Alpha: I-L, Special Education Gr 9 & 11, Returning VISA, Personalized Alternative Education

Ms. Jane Wong

Alpha: M-R, All New VISA

Mr. Matt Vittore

Alpha: S-Z, All SHSM

2. Guidance updates

~ Course Changes: 550 course changes collected and processed. **Semester 1 course change process has closed.** If students still have concerns over Semester 1 course, they can book an appointment with their assigned guidance to discuss and get help.

~ Counsellor appointments are now open. Students can book an appointment with their counsellor in their Google Classroom via Google Calendars. Student-Counsellor assignments can be found on our Guidance webpage (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/buroak.ss/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>).

~ G9 introduction to Guidance Presentation: during the week of September 19

~ G12 Graduation and Post-Secondary Assembly: Period 5 on September 20

~ GTA University Fair: 10:30-12:30pm, Thursday Sept. 29 in the main foyer

Ontario Universities Fair: October 1-2, 9:30 am to 5 pm, daily, Metro Toronto Convention Centre. For more information: <https://www.ontariouniversitiesfair.ca/>

Ontario College Information Fair: October 19-20, Toronto - Enercare Centre, Canada. More information about College Recruitment: <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/colleges/college-recruitment>

3. Parent Information Sessions:

6:30-7:30 PM Tuesday September 20

~ Grades 9-10 Parent Assembly in Learning Commons

~ Grades 10-12 Parent Presentation in Cafeteria

• Student Council updates

1. Bossilicious: Friday October 7, in the form of carnival, with promotion of clubs & councils for students to find their interested clubs & councils
2. Student council seminars: November 2022
3. Cultural fair: December 2022

• Vice Principal - Ms Wonnacott Updates

4. Upcoming Parent-Teacher interview: Thursday October 27
- **Vice Principal - Mr Melnyk Updates**
 5. Upcoming community event: **Terry Fox Run**
 6. Bossbulldog: parents/guardians can get latest updates about the school via [http:// bit.ly/bossbulldog](http://bit.ly/bossbulldog), currently more than 700 parents/guardians have accessed this tool, welcome more parents/guardians to use this app/website
 7. Bring your own device plan: the school will conduct a research for about 1 year to see the feasibility of each student to their own laptops or tablets (e.g. Mac Book or Chrome book) to school for study, so to align the school's teaching with the students' usage of the latest technology
 - **Principal - Mr Lim Updates**
 8. Importance of relationships and on-going communication
 9. Student enrollment approx. 1625
 10. Staff: 96 teachers, 10 office support, 9 educational assistants, 12 caretakers, 2 vice-principals, 1 principals
 11. BOSS Leadership Team Meeting after school today, list 4 priorities:
 - ~ Mental health of staff & students
 - ~ Staff morale: time to collaborate, social events, sense of belonging, school leadership shall take good care of all the staff and maintain the staff morale, so that the staff will take good care of the students
 - ~Student morale: extracurricular activities, school spirit, see identities representing in curriculum
 - ~Academic supports & readiness - learning loss during pandemic
 5. BOSS leadership Team meeting priorities align with YRDB priorities
 - ~ Mental health of staff & students
 - ~ Equity (culturally relevant & responsive pedagogy, dismantling anti-Black racism strategy)
 - ~ Assessment & evaluation
 - **Forming Bur Oak School Parent Council Executives:**

1. Parent Council executives:

During our first school council meeting, we have determined the Bur Oak Secondary School Parent Council executives. The executive consists of the school two co-chairs, secretary, and treasurer. It's a great honour for us that there are two parents (Mr Deepak Varma and Ms Shirley Deng) interested in the treasure position, then we held an election via anonymous voting by all the parent/guardian participants present at tonight's meeting. Finally, Ms Shirely Deng is elected as Treasurer for the Parent Council and we sincerely appreciate Mr Deepak Varma's self-nominartion and contribution. So the Parent Council executive team is set up as below:

Co-chairs: Joe Ferraro

Lisa Wu

Secretary: Willa Zhang

Treasurer: Shirley Deng

2. Voting members:

We also need a total of at least 6 parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school to be voting members; if there are voting items, quorum requires 50% in attendance. We are honored to have a very active self-nomination from many parents for the voting members. After a positive discussion among all parents/guardians participants, we finally decided to have 3 more voting members in addition to the 4 executives of the Parent Council. So we successfully have 7 voting members in our Parent Council, who are:

Kamabil Singh

Sarwar Nadeem

Yasmin Sinanan

Joe Ferraro

Lisa Wu

Shirley Deng

Willa Zhang

• Q&A

1. The major function of the Bur Oak Secondary School Parent Council is to bridge the communication between the school and parents/guardians of all the students of the school. Fund-raising is not our council's key function.
2. The upcoming school council meeting dates are:
 - Monday, November 21, 2022
 - Monday, January 23, 2023
 - Monday, March 20, 2023
 - Monday, May 15, 2023