

BAYVIEW SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

2019 – 2020

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:35 p.m.

Place: Room 121, Bayview Secondary School

PRESENT:

Admin – Ms Arlene Higgins-Wright (Principal), Mr. Seiji Ishiguro (Vice Principal), Ms Lara Joffe (Teacher)

Council – Ben Schu (Co-Chair), Edward Zhai (Co chair), Patton Su, Lida Moradkhani, Sugirtha Thayanathan, Joanna Yu (Back-up Secretary), Jennifer Shen, Laleh Marashi, Mike Xie, Colin Hilkowitz

REGRETS/ ABSENT: Mavis Wang (Treasurer), Karen Gow (Co-Secretary), Karen Wong (Co-Secretary), Yan Wang, Joanne Pan, Sherry Zhang, Patricia Kitagawa, Helen Teng,, Ida Ghiasi, Maggie Deng, Rev. Philip Der, Rob Chen, Tom Zhuang, Emily Wang, Jennifer Fang

I. WELCOME:

Ben opened the meeting at 7:05.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motioned by Patton, seconded by Lida, with all in favour.

III. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

As there are only 10 members present, the approval will be done via email.

IV. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Ms Higgins-Wright mentioned that there were mark-ups in the minutes on the public site, and inquired if there was a clean version to upload. Ben will look into it.

V. REPORTS:

A. Student Council Report:

Presenter: Ms Higgins-Wright will speak on behalf of Student Rep. during the Principal Report.

B. Teacher Rep Report: Lara Joffe - Ms Joffe wanted to discuss and explain topics presented in the media by sharing an information graphic about the language used during negotiations.

- Currently, class funding is based on “average class size”; and the limit on the number of students that can be placed in a class is determined by a combination of **average class size funding** and **class caps**.

Average Class Size Funding

- For every 22 students in a school board, the government was funding one classroom teacher
- But as the 22:1 ratio is the average for the entire YRDSB, very few high school classes in the Board have less than 22 students in them. Some students with more complex learning needs require classes that range from 10 to 15 students. So the necessary classes below the average require other classes to have more students

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Class Caps

- Local school board class caps negotiated between the union and the Board are what guarantee caps on class sizes. The following class caps were negotiated for the YRDSB when the average class size funding was at 22:1 (Academic – 29; Applied – 22; College – 28; Locally Developed – 16; Open – 28; University – 30; University/College – 30; Workplace – 20)

Proposed Changes by the Government

- The current government is proposing to change the average class size funding to **25:1** and **removing the cap** altogether (the only cap would be adhering to the fire code).
- Changing the average class size funding to 25:1 and removing caps will result in **larger classes and fewer course options**

Proposed Online Courses by the Government

- Currently Ontario Secondary School students do not need to take any online courses in order to graduate. The government is proposing that every student must now take two online courses in order to graduate
- However, the government has provided the union with zero information about these proposed online courses; the government might outsource private companies—not necessarily in consultation with educators—to come up with their own curriculum
- Adding online courses will result in fewer and fewer teachers
- Online learning is not suitable for all students
- Some students do not have access to a computer or to the internet—is it equitable to force every student to take online courses?

Current Negotiations

- Four local teacher unions (ETFO, AEFO, OECTA and OSSTF) have taken the government to court over Bill 124
- Negotiations continue
- Students at BSS are not impacted day-to-day; only administrative services have changed

C. Principal's Report:

Presenter: Ms. Arlene Higgins-Wright

- Ms. Higgins-Wright explained that we were in Room 121, a classroom for Indigenous Education as well as Modern Languages. There all white board tables throughout (on which one could write notes)
- Room 121 is Ms Joyce's base, but other teachers are welcome to book the room when she is not in 121 teaching
- Some English classrooms also have white board tables, as well as some stand up desks (for students who cannot sit for long periods of time)
- Statistics: Enrolment at 1670 students from 1674 in November ; we have lost four students
- Clubs and athletics - now at 63 clubs (Knitting Club has disbanded due to low enrolment)
- Athletics: three winter teams (boys' basketball, girls' volleyball and ski/snowboard)
- Upcoming school events – Exams – the exam schedule for the entire school has been emailed to everyone between grades 10 and 12; no more individual schedules
- Student well-being is important. Some events that will aid in well-being include therapy dog visits, a Nintendo Challenge Lunch, table tennis in the cafeteria, and sporting events

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- \$710 in financial aid provided for students to date
- For students who have incomplete timetables for semester 2 (three instead of four classes), the school has tried to fill up the schedule by offering e-learning, reach ahead (i.e., take Grade 11 English in Grade 10)

Parent Voice (Community Questions and Parking Lot)

- Newcomers would like to familiarize themselves with Canadian law and to have smooth transitions to Canada
- Safe Schools – presented by Mr. Ishiguro
 - Vaping is a problem; students have been congregating in washrooms to vape
 - Tobacco Officers came to the school to interrupt these behaviours by issuing tickets (\$305 for each offense)
 - When the Tobacco Officer is not present, BSS admin go in pairs to the washroom door (vaping smell is very strong) to give warning
 - The admin reports incidents to the Tobacco Enforcement Office
 - The school tracks offenses as well by first giving a talk to students, then by suspending them if offense reoccurs
 - Admin tries to disrupt behaviours. Students have generally stopped vaping in the washrooms because of admin monitoring, but then they moved to Stairwell B—admin then installed cameras there so now the students are vaping at the Wendy's washroom. So Tobacco Officers issue tickets there
 - Four to five tickets have been given on school property
 - Admin wants to keep washrooms safe; other students might be afraid to use the facilities if they see a large group congregating and vaping there
 - Students do feel comfortable reporting to staff when there are students vaping in the washrooms.
 - Safe and Caring School assemblies are held about vaping
- School Improvement Plan on PA Day - The Board is continuously improving, as variables are always changing; BSS is focusing on mental health, modern learning, math, and equity
- There are seven funding requests by staff – voting will take place next meeting. Which items should be funded? Are there priorities? What criteria should be looked at? What percentage should Council fund? Raising funds for any shortfalls? Currently there is a \$2000 surplus (\$11,000 after funding requests)
- Attendees brainstormed in table groups, and the priority items are Healthy Schools, mobile video switcher, poster printer, and digital stylus pen

VI. BUSINESS

- Patton stated that the next Parent Engagement meeting is January 15, 2020.
- Lida shared that a public health nurse will do a presentation for parents on vaping and cannabis, and their health impacts, on January 23, 2020, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

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Meeting Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Next Meeting: February 13, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Bayview Secondary School Library

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO REFER TO THE BELOW LINKS FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

School Council Handbook

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/SchoolCouncils/Documents/SCHandbook.pdf>

Bayview SS Constitution

<http://www.bayview.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/parent-council/constitution.pdf>