

BILL CROTHERS SECONDARY SCHOOL

School Council Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday February 22nd, 2021 @ 7:00 pm via ZOOM

Attendance

Staff Members: Meshell Lynch-James (principal), Jean Janzen (VP), Laura Hogan (VP), Allison Fox (Guidance Department Head), Andrew McCutcheon, Larissa Halko, Heather Graham Burt (Guidance Department), Sunil Khandor (Math/business department).

Student Representatives: Lauren Cirelli, Rachel Collins,

Executive Council Members: Simone Elliot (Chair), Anne Johnston (Co-Vice Chair), Jeff Yeoung (Co-Vice Chair), Van Sterijevski (Treasurer), Laura Pino (Secretary), Marisa Mahabir-Byers (Fundraising Committee Chair), Noula Halikias (Community Rep)

Council Members: Nicole Soverall, Jenn Bahen, Leslie Sahakian, Linda Galanakis, Katie Sears, Lisa Maadanian, Charmaine Collins, Sarah Lake, Kathleen Kwan, Charlene Woron, Linda Galanakis, Stephanie Lock, Katie Sears, Chris Kostakis, Joanna Rizi, Andrea Philp, Julia Mcyntire, John Bertie, Michelle Waddington, Persila Vachon,

Guests: Rhodora Vanderpool, Cecilia Pino, Alacoe McTavish, Dhammika W, Jenn Tovich, Elise Vestergaard, Chiara Meliota, Tanya Buchanan, Peter V, Julie Kruger, Bernice Knapton, Ingrid Harris, Tanya Demarinis, Raquel Pontual, Lise Hubbard-Muir, Marie Ugolini, Marcia Smith, Maria Hyponen, Debbie Greig, Jann Hogen Esch, Wendy Switzer, Phoebe P, Dawn Beal-N, Tanya Buchanan, Mayling Hurtado, Gina Predieri, Cathya Saltarelli, Sheri Riddell, Natasha Jess.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

- a) 7:00 - Simone Elliott (Chair) welcomed all and presented the agenda for the meeting.
- b) 7:05 - Van Sterijevski (Treasurer) shared the Land Acknowledgement.
- c) 7:07 - Agenda review and approval of January 18th, 2021 meeting minutes - Approved by Charlene Woron, second by Jenn Bahen
- d) 7:09 - Inclusion activity led by Simone Elliott
- e) Special mention - 3 BCSS alumni are part of the Canadian team participating in the "She Believes Cup": Sara Stratigakis, Jaden Rose and Jaden Riviera. Sara scored the winning goal vs. Argentina. Go Girls!

2.0 BCLC Updates by Lauren Cirelli and Rachel Collins

- Valentine's Day - There was a video created by all kids from council and shared on Instagram. There were also Valegrams and a virtual baking competition with kids from the grade 9 and 10 Food and Nutrition class.

- The Eco team is looking into options for eco friendly uniforms. Students were asked to submit logos and slogans for the new uniforms and the top 4 were selected. Students are to vote on their favorite of those 4:
 1. "Stay Positive, Test Negative"
 2. "The Future Is Green"
 3. "Dedicated To Excellence Since 2008"
 4. "The Future Is What You Make It"
- The yearbook committee is still working hard gathering pictures. They have been putting weekly themed videos out asking students to submit pictures.
- The communications team is working with grade 9 students with the goal of getting the g9 students to get to know the
- The Spirit Team is coming up with spirit days and new challenges that will be put in place during the rest of the semester.
- January 24 and 25 - Wear a pink shirt for the anti-bullying campaign.

3.0 GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT by Ms. Allison Fox (Head) and Ms. Larissa Halko (Student Success)

GUIDANCE:

- Course Selection opens on January 16th and closes at 4pm on January 24th.
- Counselors are busy taking appointments and helping the kids make their selections for the coming year.
- The best place to go for information is the scoreboard:
<https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/bcssguidance/home>

You can find presentations for Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 by clicking here:
<https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/bcssguidance/course-selection-information?authuser=0>

For students in grade 9, you can find information by clicking here:
<https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/bcssscoreboard/newcolts-20212022?authuser=0>

Students can find answers to many questions in these presentations.

- Grade 9 and 10 students can only pick 1 elective. Students in grade 9 can take both g9 and g10 electives.
- Grade 11 and 12 students can look at pre-requisites for college and university and then go back to see what they need to take to satisfy those requisites.
- Parent verification and sign off will be electronic this year. No papers will be sent home.
- Encourage your children to talk to their guidance counselor to make the correct decisions the first time so we can reduce changes later. It is hard to accommodate all requests.
- For information on how to satisfy community service hours during COVID, please visit the Community Involvement page where you can find virtual opportunities approved by the board. Click here for more information →
<https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/bcssguidance/community-involvement?authuser=0>

- Once the students have their hours filled, they can take a photo of the paper and then email it to their alpha Guidance counselor.

STUDENT SUCCESS:

- The student success exists to encourage all students to achieve their very best. It works with students in programs like:
 - Peer Tutoring - If your child is struggling and needs help, they get paired with a senior student that helps them understand and work through their challenges. The senior students get volunteer hours for this program and receive training prior to being paired with a junior student.
 - Peer Tutoring happens on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45 to 4:45. All students connect to one room and then they break out into break-out rooms. They can participate one or two days.
 - You can find the request form under the Scoreboard, BCSS Portal, Student Success or click here → https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdf76H63GeUtZj2_3EKAA0H8uyLLx3rbOsheJx4j4CVq59_Rq/viewform
 - For more information on the Peer Tutoring Program, please contact Larissa Halko → larissa.halko@yrdsbca

4.0 TEACHER'S REPORT- Mr. Khandor (Math and Business)

- Grade 9 and 10 HPE (Health and Physical Education):
 - During COVID, more racket sports are being played as they are easier to maintain distance.
 - All equipment is sanitized before and after every use
 - Once weather is warmer, the kids will be able to go outside and play other sports.
 - The focus is on mental health with emphasis in healthy routines and day to day activities: nutrition, sleeping habits, screen time, setting goals, active living, etc.
- Instagram @ BCSS - Parents can share pictures of the kids at home having fun, doing activities, getting some fresh air, etc. You can send your pictures to Jacopo.stifani@yrdsb.ca
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5.0 SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT- Simone Elliott (Chair)

- Simone shared the "Did You Know" slides
- The passion and commitment of the BCSS teachers is very valuable to us parents and we greatly appreciate it.
- The executive council has an exciting announcement to make... We are working hard to meet the needs of students and parents regarding mental health and resilience and so, we are happy to announce that Kaleb Dahlgren from the Humboldt Broncos will do a presentation to the BCSS community. SAVE THE DATE: MAY 10. We are super excited about this so, stay tuned for more details!

6.0 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT- Meshell Lynch-James

- a) We are happy to be back in school.
- b) As per York Health and Ontario Health, we are following protocols to stay safe: wash and sanitize hands, wear your masks (have an extra clean one in your bag), staff are now wearing face shields, social distance (please do not congregate inside or outside of school), students and staff need to complete the Google form every time they come to school. This form is sent via email thru the GAPS account. Students need to show the confirmation form at the door to be allowed into the school.
- c) We have an admin team change: Mr. Malnyk has moved to virtual school for semester 2. Due to the increased number of virtual students, more staff is needed to assist with virtual schools. Once semester 2 is over, the board will reassess and we hope we can welcome Mr. Malnyk back. We miss you!
- d) Onsite testing - BCSS was not one of the schools chosen for onsite testing. More and more schools will be added as time goes by. More information will be shared with the school community once we have it.
- e) Report cards have been sent out. It was done online this time. If you have any issues or if you didn't get it, please contact the school directly or your child's teacher for assistance.
- f) YRDSB Hat Rule - We are revising the hat rule (students allow to wear a hat in the classroom). As of Sept. 2013, 21% of schools do not allow students to wear hats inside (BCSS is part of this group) and 79% do allow hats. Students will be polled to see the preference and evaluate if changes will be done at the school.

5.0 OTHER BUSINESS/QUESTIONS

Questions submitted on the ZOOM chat:

Q: As clubs are created, will they be added to the list?

A: Yes, most definitely.

Q: Will guidance counselors reach out to students who do not drop in for course selection over the next 2 days?

A: Guidance counselors will do their best to meet and reach out to all the kids. Please encourage your kids to book a time to talk with their counselor.

Q: For morning HPE, does the 45 minute workout, do they have to be done during class or can they be done at any time during the day ?

A: On asynchronous days, try to engage the kids to do it during class time. It is good for them to keep a routine.

Q: Are there patterns or specific things kids need to do for asynchronous days?

A: Students have been provided links to more than 100 activities to do at home. They can pick from those activities.

Q: How do the teachers monitor participation for HPE at home?

A: Kids can record themselves and share the videos with the teachers, use smart watches to track activities, live videos, etc. Kids also have journals that they need to fill in and submit to their teachers.

Q: Once everything goes back to normal, can you keep the council meetings virtual so parents who live far away can attend?

A: When we are allowed to have the meetings in person again, we will look into live-streaming them so everybody can attend.

Q: Will BCSS be opening in August or September?

A: As of now, the regular BCSS schedule has been submitted to the board. This includes the August start. There are 3 check points that it has to go through, and it has already gone through 2. One more to go. The plan is to start in August.

Q: Has the air quality been tested at the school?

A: Yes, the air quality has been tested and it is good. The building is newer and so the infrastructure is of quality.

Q: When does rotation 2 start?

A: Rotation 2 starts on Monday, March 1st.

Q: Is Mr. Virgo opening up training centres?

A: Yes, starting with a small number of students after school. More information will be posted on the Scoreboard and Instagram.

Q: Can the calendar for the whole semester be posted?

A: Yes, there were changes that had to be made due to the March break being moved to April but it will be posted on the YRDSB website when done.

Q: Are there any plans to return to sports?

A: Not at this time. We are waiting for the province to give the board the go ahead.

Q: Will English Literacy test be held for grade 10 and 11 students this June?


A: No OSSLT for any grade will be held this semester.

Q: What about EQAO?

A: No EQAO either.

Q: Is there going to be another chance to buy uniforms?

A: Yes. We don't have a date yet but the school is looking at a sale of the current inventory so we can order new material. We'll keep you posted.



Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm by Ms. Lynch-James; approved by Julia Johnstone McIntyre second by Jenn Bahen.