

**Bur Oak Secondary School Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes of 2nd School Council Meeting**

**School Council meeting:** November 21, 2022

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Place:** Bur Oak SS Room 1066 (beside the Library/Learning Commons)

**Participants:**

School Leadership: Louis Lim, Mark Melnyk

Student Council Representative: Manav

Parents/Guardians: Yasmin S., Shirley D., Lethy C., Loretta L., Kim + Roger S., Yolanda T., Ivy C., Willa Z., Lisa W., Joe F., Deepak V., Yamiui V.

**Agenda**

- \* Land acknowledgement (Joe F. & Lisa W.)
- \* Welcomes & Introductions (Joe F. & Lisa W.)
- \* Approval of Minutes: September Minutes (Willa Z.)
- \* Guidance Update (Louis Lim on behalf of Gillian Andersen)
- \* Student Council Update (Manav)
- \* Principal's Update (Louis Lim)
- \* Vice-Principal's Update (Mark Melnyk)
- \* Other Business

**1. Land acknowledgement (Joe F. & Lisa W.)**

**2. Welcomes & Introductions (Joe F. & Lisa W.)**

Co-Chairs: Joe Ferraro & Lisa Wu

Secretary: Willa Zhang

Treasurer: Shirley Deng

### 3. Approval of Minutes: September Minutes (Willa Z.)

The meeting minutes of the 1st School Council Meeting on September 19, 2022 was officially approved by all members of the council at tonight's school council meeting.

### 4. Guidance Update (Louis Lim on behalf of Gillian Andersen)

~ G12 University application: due on January 12, 2023, students need to get on track and guidance is happy to support students individually in the application process, students should reach out if they need help.

Guidance check-in means guidance will go to classrooms to make sure all graduates are on track and all necessary forms are filled out.

~ G8 Open House: taking place from 6:30 pm - 8:15 pm Monday November 21, 2022

~ Semester 1 Exams: will take place between Thursday, January 26 to Wednesday, February 1, 2023. Students have not had exams for a long time since the pandemic, so parents should pay attention to the mental health of students in preparing for the exams.

~ Big focus of guidance for the year: time management, organization, learning skills.

### 5. Student Council Update (Manav)

~ Bossilicious: successfully held on October 7, 2022, the biggest club fair at BOSS

~ Halloween: successful event held on October 31st, 2022, students highly enjoyed

~ Spirit Week: took place from Tuesday to Thursday last week, students were excited and promoted pictures via social media

~ Winter Talented shows: Thursday, December 22, 2022, with dancing, music clubs to perform shows

~ Spring carnival: March or April, 2023

### 6. Principal's Update (Louis Lim)

~ Student size: currently 1644 students, next semester going up 1670, getting tight on class space

~ Staff focuses: YRDSB priorities

(1) Mental health (for both students and staff)

(2) Equity (for all students)

(3) Instruction and Assessment

~ **One Teacher in two class sessions / Two teachers in one class session:** The Board of Education has received funding from the Ministry of Education to have 1 or 2 teachers who will focus 1/3 of their day on destreaming of Grade 9 Math or Science. We have selected 2 science teachers both teaching Grade 9 science and also going to other Grade 9 science classes to support the classroom teachers on the premise that the classroom teachers feel comfortable. They will support some students who need help in the classroom when doing some class projects. They will soon broaden their support to non-mathematics and non-science grade 9 classes. This initiative is aiming at enhancing the teachers' learning curve as well as providing enough help to all Grade 9 students.

~ **OSSLT for G11/12 students:** Tuesday, November 22, 2022

~ **OSSLT practice for G10 students:** Wednesday, November 23, 2022

~ **OSSLT for G10 students:** Thursday, December 1, 2022 (during Period 3 and Period 4 lunch @ Cafeteria, other students not participating in the OSSLT to have their lunch off-site)

~ **Music Night at BOSS:** December 13, 2022 (welcome parents to watch your child's music show) in school cafeteria

~ **CUPE Members:** A lot of CUPE members working at BOSS, including secretaries, education assistants, child youth workers, library technician, and tech support people. They are a very skilled and collaborate, work hard in supporting the school's operation. We could not run the school building safely without their support. As they have not reached a tentative agreement, school buildings cannot open safely for teachers and students.

~ **Graduation Awards:** Ms. Wannacott and Ms. Andersen, who are on the Graduation Committee, are preparing for the Grade 12 graduation process. They found there's no fund for the Graduation Awards. So we are looking for parents who are interested in forming a committee to raise funds (e.g. donation from businesses) for the graduation awards.

~ **Principal Profile questionnaire feedback:** every school needs to work out the principal profile, which can serve as reference for future selection of school principal or vice principals. Parent participants provided feedback on site, some parents already provided feedback online.

## **7. Vice-Principal's Update (Mark Melnyk)**

~ **Bring your own device plan:** student and teacher surveys have been done on BYOD to School. Parent survey will be conducted after tonight's meeting.

According to the student survey results, 67% of students already bring their laptops or ipads to school every day, 81% of students have access to devices and 46.6% of the devices fall in

the price range between \$150 to \$500, 99.8% of students have internet access at home.

School staff survey shows that 64.3% of teachers think BOSS have the possibility of becoming a 1:1 school where students would bring their own primary devices (laptops/chromebooks), 44.6% of teachers already using chromebooks in class every day. For other teachers, the major concern is about the very small number of students who do not have their own devices and the screen time management for students using the devices every day in classes.

A parent survey will be sent out to parents to collect parents' views on this initiative after tonight's meeting, the hyperlink of the survey is: <https://forms.gle/xtVv9AChcPYfawag9>. During tonight's meeting, some parents raised questions about the 1:1 school plan:

**Q1:** Does this program intend to have all students get access to Google Classroom?

**A1:** Students have already been using Google Classroom for synchronous classes during the pandemic. Students' own laptop or ipad cost around \$150 to \$500, so all of their devices can get access to Google Classroom.

**Q2:** Do we have some direction from YRDSB on this 1:1 school? Or how other schools are implementing this program? I think teachers will know best what will work well for the students.

**A2:** Markville SS became a 1:1 school 10 years ago. Especially during the last 3 years pandemic, everybody is actually in a 1:1 school with every student and teacher using their own laptop/ipad for synchronous classes.

**Q3:** If our school becomes a 1:1 school, how can we support those students who cannot BYOD to school? Do we have any plan to address the financial concern of these students?

**A3:** Yes, the school actually has about 500 devices in the library (even though about 200 of them need to go recycling). For students who cannot BYOD to school, we have enough chrome books to support them. The program will take consideration of the students' mental health and equity in learning, and teachers will provide instruction to students when using the technology devices in class.

### **~ BOSS staff and student voice**

The school has conducted a survey with staff and invited classes/students in September and October in the form of small group discussions to identify areas of need to identify BOSS's goals. With this effort, we have come up with some words to describe the BOSS community (such as Diverse, Kind, Respectful, Good, Organized, Supportive, Smart, Caring, Normal, Amazing, etc.).

During tonight's meeting, parents are invited to participate to write and post their answers to following questions:

- (1) What are students excited about?
- (2) What are immediate student needs?
- (3) What are the challenges that students face?
- (4) What are the concerns that parents have?

According to parents' answers, we found that parents' perspectives are different to some extent with that of our kids. Parents' major concerns are mainly around "how to prepare for the future, time management, closing learning gaps, academic achievement and mental health", which all need to be addressed by enhancing the students' learning skills, one of the top priorities of the school board and BOSS.

To address the concerns of students and parents, Ms. Wonnacott is working with 4 to 5 students to set up a student club called "Academic Success Club", with the plan to teach kids on different learning skills such as presentation skills, test skills, project skills, etc. In addition, some senior students are also providing 1-on-1 peer tutoring in math and science to other school mates in need of improving these subjects.

Regarding parents' question about whether the school can provide volunteering opportunities to students as students worry about fulfilling the volunteer hours, Mr. Lim mentioned that students can participate in some of the school activities such as the Parent's Night (where one teacher even has 2 volunteer students to support him/her); students can also contact their guidance about the volunteering issue.

### **8. The upcoming school council meeting date:**

- Monday, January 23, 2023