

## **Bur Oak Secondary School Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes 1st School Council Meeting: Oct 2, 2023**

**School Council meeting:** Oct 2, 2023

**Time:** 06:30 PM - 08:00 PM, Monday October 2, 2023

**Place:** Bur Oak SS Library Learning Commons

**Participants:**

School Leadership: Principal Louis Lim

Teachers: Angela Rodrigo

Student Council Representative: Kelvin Nguyen and Alice Liang

Parents/Guardians:

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions – Principal Lim
2. Land Acknowledgement - Vice Principal Pridie
3. Purpose of School Council – Principal Lim
4. Student Council Update - Alice Liang and Kelvin Nguyen
5. Teacher Representative Update – Angela Rodrigo
6. Vice-Principals' Updates – Vice Principal Pridie and Vice-Principal Sadacharan
7. Principal's Update – Principal Lim
8. 2023-2024 School Council Executive
  - Co-Chairs: Manish Sangal and Althea Benjamin
  - Secretary: Sunita Vijay

1. Principal Lim welcomed the members of this year's school council to the first

meeting of the 2023-2024 school year with staff introductions.

2. Land acknowledgement (Erika Pridie)
3. Student Council Update (Kelvin and Alice)

**Activities:**

*BOSSilicious - Oct 6*

- Each period is shortened and lunch is extended. This celebration allows students to hear about different clubs and events at BOSS to see how they can be involved in the school community.

*Semi-Formal - late November*

- dance at a banquet hall, open to all students

*Worldfest Festival - in the Spring*

- Each period is shortened and lunch is extended. This celebration allows students to teach and learn about celebrations from different cultures.

**Student Activity Fee:**

Student activity fees support school councils and events. The Student Activity Fee is \$40. Please consider donating.

4. Purpose of School Council (Principal Lim)

Principal presented the purpose of the School Council and reviewed examples of activities and accomplishments from last year. Reviewed Principal Profile from 2022-2023 and explained key aspects of the Profile:

5. Teacher Update: Angela Rodrigo
  - BOSS Staff and Students participated in a Community Connected Experiential Learning project with the Markham Museum. Student works installed in the museum as part of the exhibit "Standing in the Doorway: Lived Histories and Experiences of the Chinese Community". The Technology students created a documentary of the process.
  - The Guidance Department facilitated 2 Information sessions on Sept 26
  - In order to support parent/guardian engagement Information sessions are available:
    - Sept 26 - In person (evening)
    - October 19 - Virtual from 12:30-1:30 (tentative)
    - November 7 - In Person from 12:30-1:30 (tentative)

Information sessions will be communicated to the community via Inform and the Bulldog Bulletin. Registration will be required.

Q. Parent asked if there was a list of previous questions and answers that parents could read from past sessions.

The Vice Principal showed the council the Guidance page on the Bur Oak website that houses the Grade 9 Transition presentation with questions and answers. She will also ask the Guidance Department to post their presentations from the Parent Information Night to their website.

Q. A parent asked if all questions from future sessions could be answered, recorded, and shared.

The Teacher Rep confirmed that she will do this.

6. Vice-Principal's Update - Erika Pridie

- Student Photos and photo retake day is Oct 16.
- During safety week we completed fire/lockdown/hold and secure/bomb threat drills.
- Teachers are working on Interim Reports, email with Interim Report card will be sent on Oct 17 or 18.
- Parent Interview Night is October 24 from 6-8. You must sign up using TeachAssist.
- Grad Photos are Nov 6-11.
- OSSLT is November 22/23 - successful completion is a graduation requirement.
- Math EQAO is January 19 to 22 - this counts for 5% of the student's mark
- Exam week is January 25-31

7. Vice Principal's Update - [Stacey Sadacharan](#)

- grade 12s sharing lockers this year
- The annual awards breakfast is on Oct 26. Our Superintendent and our School Trustee will be in attendance.
- Take our Kids to Work Day is on Nov. 1
- Prom is at Angus Glen Golf Club on Friday May 24, 2024
- The Leadership Team will be doing a Book Study focusing on Equity for Grading, Trauma Informed Learning, Dismantling Anti-Black Racism
- Vice-Principal spoke about our supports for the Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy and Black Student Association in order to elevate student voice in order to support their mental health and wellbeing as well as their achievement

8. Principal's Update: Principal Lim

- Equity is at the centre of everything we do - to ensure that all students are successful. Providing students with varying levels of support.
- Teachers are using fairness not sameness, in their Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy, ensuring that students see themselves represented in the materials. As a board, we are challenging ourselves to provide equitable support for students, for example: what do we do if a student doesn't finish a test? If we give them a zero, that's not a true demonstration of their learning. As a staff we are looking at conversations, products, and observations, not just tests and assignments. We are moving from "covering the material" to ensuring students are "learning". We are also focussing on Mental Health and Well-Being, especially since the pandemic.
- None of this can happen if the students feel unsafe, if they feel like they do not belong. We now focus on the 3 Rs (respect, responsibility, relationships) so that we can get to the work of learning and teaching.
- Principal shared that the reputation is that the washrooms are intimidating. Heshared that behaviours were escalating last spring. In order to address this, the teachers met to brainstorm ways to address these issues. It has significantly improved, but we have still found students congregating in the washroom.
- Student enrollment has surpassed 1700 students. Last year at this time we were at 1625 students.
- The YRDSB East School Council Forum is on Thursday October 19 at Bill Crothers Secondary School 5:30-8:30. It is a great opportunity for networking and listening to a Keynote speaker. Dinner will be provided. 3 parents volunteered to attend - The Principal asked them to email him to confirm their attendance.
- Principal asked for volunteers to be the Chair or Co-Chairs and Secretary.
  - Manish Sangal and Althea Benjamin are the co-chairs by acclaim.
  - Sunita Vijay is the Secretary by acclaim.
- Principal provided an opportunity for council members to provide ideas for topics that they'd like to learn more about. Topics requested are as follows:
  - information regarding the supports in place for students, for example peer tutoring and/or Student Success, destreaming and MLL support.
    - Principal suggested that we might bring in Ms. Brown to speak at our next meeting. He also suggested that we look at processes that are in place for parents to get support for students who are struggling. Perhaps someone from Student Services would present at the School Council meeting in the future.
  - Is there a focus on executive functioning for all students? Are we leaving children behind when we don't encourage them to self-assess and peer-assess. This helps with a sense of connectedness and belonging. Is there differentiation in teaching and assessing? The parents and students need

to know that there are multiple ways of being assessed.

- Principal suggested that maybe we could have a guest speaker to speak about supporting parents and students regarding executive function.
- Could we have teachers sharing different subject areas to get different perspectives; could we share the topics in the invitation, that way parents could decide if they want to go to the meetings based on the topics that will be shared?
  - Principal confirmed that this is a great idea and we can do this. He will ask the teachers if they can attend the meetings and communicate this in the next invitation.
- A parent shared that the lack of textbooks concerns her because there is a lack of examples for students to see. She would really like textbooks. Parents shared that they would like more information about which subjects have textbooks.
  - The Vice-Principal agreed that she would create a survey to find out which courses have textbooks and add the responses to the Bulldog Bulletin.
- A parent shared that in her experience it's the parent who doesn't feel organized, but the students know where the materials are. She indicated that in her experience the teachers are all pretty organized.
- A parent asked about the OSSLT wondering how a student would be prepared for the OSSLT if they don't have English in Semester 1.
  - The Vice-Principal advised that there are online practice tests, and that the test is covering Grade 9 curriculum. She shared that we offer Literacy Blitzes and an After School Literacy Program. Principal reinforced that all teachers are responsible for supporting the OSSLT.

Meeting ended at 20:46