

Bishop Smith Catholic High School

School Council Meeting Minutes

Robert Tate Library

December 4, 2023

6:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Sara Barclay
Evelyn Brunette, Chair
Min Goyette
Julie Huckabone, Principal
Christine Kelly
Jodie Kutschke, Teacher
Jessica Pierunek
Annemarie Reist
Angela Watson, Teacher
Jennifer Wills

Regrets

Angela Yahnke
Yvette Bourque
Leah Bouwman
Chantel Carriere
Bill Crogie
Hailey Graham, Student Council
Patty Hamilton
Jessica Hartwig
Sara Lehnen
Olivia Mahon, Student Council
Chris Mulvihill, Vice-Principal
Julie Pilatzke
Kristopher Reeves
Wendy Reeves
Jennifer Schori
Crystal Schroeder
Katie Scott, Vice-Principal
Christine Sennett
Angela Yahnke
Noelle Yeremiy, Secretary

Agenda and Discussion Items

1.0 Land Acknowledgement

J. Huckabone

2.0 Prayer and Chaplaincy

A. Watson

Advent started with elementary and secondary students making Advent calendars.

Alpha program, for parents and guardians in our school community, to begin in January at BSCHS. Program will help adults explore the Christian faith, regardless of background or beliefs, to support their children's faith journey beyond the school environment. Eleven weeks of sessions. Each session stands alone and provides a safe environment to ask questions about faith. Childcare and supper are provided.

Theology of the Body sessions will conclude this coming weekend.

3.0 Adoption of Minutes - October 30, 2023

Adopted/Accepted by those present.

4.0 Student Leadership Updates

Snowflake dance was a success, including food and treats. Grade 7-8 dance to be held this Friday afternoon at the school. Grade 7-8 Student Council leading this initiative.

Much anticipated Reindeer Hunt for high school students and Reindeer Games for grade 7-8 students.

The Grade 9-12 Student Athletic Council hosted a Pass N' Smash event for high school students. A similar event was hosted by the grade 7-8 leadership team.

Bingo Buyout event to be held during Period One on the last day of school in December.

Christmas Assembly to be held during Period Two.

5.0 BSCHS Updates

Staff

Mr. Silmser - acting vice-principal

Vice-Principal, Mrs. Scott, in Deep River (as acting principal) until December

Teacher, Mr. Britton, retired and Michelle Burgess, from Barry's Bay, filled position

Educational Assistant (EA) changes have been made and EA positions have been filled

Recent posting for Campus Youth Worker, a long-term occasional position; current staff member is in a new position with the Board

Exam Update

High school students are working on culminating projects and/or preparing for January exams. There will be less EA support for students enrolled in academic courses. We are now planning for exam support and accommodations.

Next week we will hold grade level meetings to explain the culminating project and exam process as well as required preparations. Will discuss the exam schedule and student expectations. A culminating project and exam memo identifying specific dates and culminating/exam grade weights will be distributed to grade 9-12 students.

Guidance will provide exam preparation information for students in January. Focus on grade 9 students.

Grade 7-8 Update

Option to stay in or go outdoors during lunch hour.

More opportunities to be involved in school activities.

Phone usage at lunch is still on hold. OPP recently had sessions with our grade 7 students about cell phone use and social media safety. They will speak to our grade 8 classes at a later date.

5.1 Special Education

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) were picked up at Parent-Teacher Interviews or mailed out.

5.2 OSSLT/EQAO

Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) was held on November 23. A second OSSLT writing opportunity for grade 10 students will occur in April.

Grade 9 EQAO math test to be held in late January for students with a Semester One math course.

5.3 School Communication

Enrolment recruitment and retention at BSCHS involves school promotion and visiting area elementary schools. Mrs. Huckabone will visit St. Andrews Elementary School in Killaloe and St. James Elementary School in Eganville in early December. Other area schools will be visited in the new year.

School achievement planning includes information on in-classroom Tier 1 supports for students. Also includes review of accommodations needed for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We have a decline in Educational Assistant support but an increase in technology support - to help with student accommodations. Additional technology support will benefit all students.

BSCHS Open House will take place during Education Week this year - May 5-10

5.4 Safety Procedures

More information is coming about an update to our school safety procedures. We have been working closely with our Safe Schools Coordinator, Scott Lafreniere, as well as the senior administrative team.

5.5 Mental Health Team and Supports Available

Tammy Peplinskie providing mental health support. She is our school attendance counselor. We will invite her to attend a future School Council meeting. School attendance appears to be down across the Province.

5.6 Anti-Black Racism

The N word was written on a school locker. We are not sure when it was written. The locker door was removed and replaced. Our Safe Schools Coordinator will come to the school to start conversations about racism and discrimination - to make sure everyone feels safe and included. We have zero tolerance for this type of behaviour.

6.0 Transportation

We still have some routes without a bus and we sometimes experience random bus cancellations. There is no bus for sporting events due to availability and cost. We are grateful to parents who are driving their children to and from games.

A Student Activity Fee may return to help offset the cost of transportation to and from events.

7.0 General Discussion

We have a healthy snack program. Some grade 7-8 students are participating. Snacks are set up at bus loading doors so students can take what they want when they arrive in the morning. We also have snack centers in our grade 7-8 classrooms. Items include fruit and granola bars.

We offer grade 7-8 outdoor recess in the winter months as well as an indoor option. Our two main areas include the cafeteria and the grade 7-8 yard - which includes basketball nets.

8.0 Adjournment

Next meeting will be held in early February.