

RAPT Meeting Minutes

Program/Area:	<i>Rippleton Association of Parents & Teachers (School Advisory Council)</i>
Meeting Purpose:	<i>School Opening Meeting</i>
Meeting Date:	<i>October 18th , 2023</i>
Meeting Time:	<i>Started at 6:08 pm and Adjourned at 7:50 pm</i>
Meeting Location:	<i>Rippleton PS – School Library</i>
Meeting Facilitators:	<i>Dimitra S and Principal Mr. da Luz</i>
Attendees:	<i>16 attendees – List attached</i>
Minutes Prepared By:	<i>Shabnam Sh. and Dimitra S.</i>

Next Meeting	Place	Observation
<i>November 27th , 6 pm</i>	<i>Staff Room (Library will be occupied for Scholastic Book Sales)</i>	<i>RAPT should hold 4 meetings a year- two before the Holiday Season and two after New Year</i>

Agenda- October 18 th
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and Introduction 2. Principal's Report 3. Treasury's Report 4. RAPT Report 5. Parent Council Executive Election for the year 2023- 2024 6. Other Business/ Q&A 7. Set a date for the next meeting

Discussions:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Dimitra S started with a greeting and brought a motion for meeting minutes approval (April 19th, 2023) – The motion was approved by Shabnam, Dimitra, Amanda, Irshad, and Whitney</i> 2. <i>Principal Report and Discussion: Mr. da Luz</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three staff came back from maternity leave: Ms. McCormick, Ms. Beckford and Ms. Malley • Two teachers assigned for ASD room 101: Ms. Fenton is back and Ms. Basu • Mr Gola came back for music and the school will enjoy more music and dance programs • Reorganization for kindergarten, we were lucky it didn't affect all grades • Kindergarten classes collapsed from 4 to 3 as the number of students changed after school opening. Currently have 26-27 for each kindergarten class. Ontario's cap is 29 per class • The school lost a talented teacher, Ms Lisette, due to the reorganization. The decision is based on seniority. She is now at Owen PS • Ms Kolagaris moved to grade 1 • Mr. Gola is part time, at Rippleton in the mornings and Denlow in the afternoons • The class cap for grades 1-3 is 20 students and we are under 20 for each classroom. The class cap for grades 4-8 is up to 36 and we are around 24 students for both our grade 4/5 classes • Rippleton currently has 94 students who use 9 buses • Rippleton is a closed school (boundaries explained), however, it continues growing each year due in part to changes in boundaries. Some populated areas added to the boundaries and this led to more students in some classes • The school gets funding based on the number of students in the school • If you are in Roadsters, you are part of the school. If you leave child care (Roadsters) and are not in the school boundaries, you may be asked to leave and go to your home school • Rippleton will have a Night of Festival of Lights as well as an end-of-year concert which was missing in last year's festival program

RAPT Meeting Minutes

Discussions:

- We had an orange shirt day in October, part of Truth & Reconciliation week, to help educate students throughout the week about residential schools and indigenous communities that were a part of this program
- Each class did something special and a gallery walk and students placed coloured pins on staircase and on the front fence outdoors for recognition
- We had a Terry Fox Run in September, raised over 1000 dollars through online donations, toonie for Terry and selling T-shirts
- Thank you to volunteers and Mr. Yee for organizing Terry Fox. RAPT provided freebies
- We are very proud to have a student going to Cross Country City Finals
- Rippleton should have 6 fire drills and 2 lockdowns each year. However, due to the current situation in the Middle East, schools have put a temporary hold as it may be traumatic for some students
- All TDSB Premises are “**no dogs allowed**” on property- School should be a fun and safe place learning place for school and parents and school staff should take care of this important matter (An incident explained)
- Rippleton is in communication with TPH for fall-winter forecasts. RSV, COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses are expected to be circulating around. If kids are symptomatic they should stay home for 24-48 hours for common signs/ symptoms and for diarrhea, it will be 72 hours. We need to ask children not to put things in their mouth as the main cautionary measures
- We have clubs and sports at Rippleton throughout the year: At the moment we have Soccer, Borden Ball, Cross Country and Eco Club. There will be more teams as the year goes on
- Preschool playground needed a revamping (99% of Roadster’s kids are schoolers) so Rippleton PS decided to assist with budget and execution from TDSB
- The progress reports will be sent out on November 14th and Interviews will be on the 16th in the evening and 17th in the morning.
- Rippleton shares information through various media including social media X (formerly twitter), school website, teacher online presence, and school messenger newsletters
- The photo retake will be on November 14th
- The Scholastic Book Fair will be from November 27 through December 1st
- The Festival of Lights will be on December 19th
- The Holiday Season starts December 22nd and kids will be back on Monday, January 8th
- March break will be March 11-15 and Friday, June 28th will be the last day of school.
- Rippleton has kids with various allergies that carry an Epipen. Please send allergy-conscious food with kids every day for lunch and snack
- Use the specific bus portal for daily departures, pickups and related information
- Please manage kids' appointments during before and after school time
- Rippleton has a great library and a virtual library is added to this asset too
- **Parking space is very limited in Rippleton’s school area. Staff parking lot can’t be used between 8:15 am and 4 pm every day.** The school front end is for school buses, so, please avoid parking in that zone and use only permitted areas on Rippleton Rd
- School districts have adopted more liberal kinds of dress codes for schools, however, some expectations are still in place for safer schools
- A third party will design a website for online sales of spirit wear and ordering will be faster and easier through that means
- Checking school calendar on the Rippleton website will help with activities and programs

3. Treasurer's Report and Discussion: Whitney W

- RAPT bank has been changed to “ Alterna Saving” in June
- RAPT account has almost 29000 dollars
- Approximately 23000 raised from Pizza (expected profit 14000-15000)

RAPT Meeting Minutes

Discussions:

- 1300 spent on freezes, kindergarten meet and greet expenses (coffee/tea), halloween pumpkins, terracotta cookies, Pizza gift cards to pay for pizza lunch, snacks and juice so far
 - There was a 200 dollars for teacher allowance and a scientist/ artist budget for each class. (a new budget will be discussed in the next meeting)
4. **RAPT Report and Discussion: Dimitra S**
- Overview of RAPT - Rippleton Association of Parents and Teachers
 - RAPT organizes fundraisers and events and work together with staff to help support and enrich students learning at Rippleton
 - RAPT helped with school upgrades and programs (outdoors equipment, workshops, technology, school experience enhancement, scientists and artists in the school, sports club jerseys, etc.)
 - 6000 dollars put into technology upgrades last year
 - Early in September a package was sent home with info on RAPT, direct donation and pizza lunch forms
 - RAPT is still accepting cash for pizza lunch although school cash online has been closed
 - We had a used book sale which raised 330 dollars (each book priced 0.5 to 4 dollars)
 - RAPT needs volunteers for Toonie Treat Day sales on October 26 during lunch recess
 - RAPT is collecting Halloween Nut Free candy. The donated candy will be used for treat bags to go out to every student on Halloween. We have parent volunteers to organize next week
 - RAPT bought pumpkins for all classes to carve and decorate for Halloween day.
 - Next meeting vote to allocate funds for school year
5. **Election for 2023-2024 Executives**
- Nominees had introductions to attendees
 - RAPT asked for votes and motions – motion approved
 - New RAPT executive members for 2023-24 will be Shabnam Sh, Paris A, Dimitra S, Irshad M, Ramisa F, Amanda W, Whitney W, Alice Z, Mary L

Q&As:

- *How soon online sales will be available for spirit wear? From Mid-November*
- *Whether our grade 5 can have sleepover trips? it's allowed by grade 6 only. Grade 5 can enjoy several day trips though*
- *What school provides homeschooling in the area? Rippleton, Owen and Denlow*
- *How can we have BBQ night? We can have food trucks that have been approved by TDSB board*
- *The possibility of subsidized lunch for kids? The Healthy School Committee will not accept applications from Rippleton and the last application has been denied. Other options are Parents' donation or RAPT fund however again it should be from an approved vendor list on the TDSB website*
- *Can we have after-school clubs? We need staff to volunteer for that. French, bollywood dance, karate, coloring, walking and running club was amongst clubs that have been run in the past as per the availability of volunteers*
- *Question asked about hiring a third-party club to run a club at school? It should be again amongst the approved list from TDSB*
- *Any holiday market and performing arts? Music director, Mr Gola is committed to two performances, one for holiday season and one for spring*