

Runnymede C.I. School Council Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

February 23, 2017; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Runnymede C.I. Library

Present (parents): Pi-Yu Cheung, Donna Miato, Kimberly de Witte, Sasheen Edwards, Sharon Nodello, Lisa Truant-Tan, Harpreet Gulri, Salwa Mohamed

Present (other staff): Mr. Edwards, Mr. Ross Murray, Mr. Pollice, Sean Henderson, Wilma Pidhayny

Regrets: J. Ardell

1. Meeting call to order: 7:05 pm
2. Review and approval of last meeting minutes – minutes were distributed in advance.
3. Staff Update of 2016/17 RCI's Action Plan
 - I. Student Achievement (S. Henderson): Literacy – identify students early in Grade 9 with learning gaps, catch them up to the rest of the students, Intervention program, with 20 hours of one-on-one work, child can move ahead. Numeracy plan – include in all subjects, not just Math. For e.g in History, there are dates, graphs etc. that can involve numeracy. Result – increase in EQA scores, understanding the question often stands in the way.
Change - Focus on reading and writing every day in class; students should be reading 2/3 of their time in class; kids start loving to read; difficulty of text increases over time; process will be extended from Grade 9 to 10. Q – any assessment? A-Yes, evaluation on point system; chat with students and ask pointed questions to assess understanding; every Thursday an assignment to gage their understanding. Getting positive feedback on this program. There are some financial issues getting the books. Graphic novels are a good start and then they can progress to simple novels and then more complex novels.
 - II. Wellness (Ross): Making school a safe place, they want to be here; develop strong relationships with students and teachers; Tiered approach – students, teachers and parents; targeted – like mental health. Developing common language on mental health. Show “Promoting Mental Health Finding a Shared Language” introductory video from CAMH to students during class. Mental Health is not equal to Mental Illness.
 - III. Equity (Ross): TDSB most diverse student body; lot of research has been done, bring it into consciousness of the school; every student who comes to our school has opportunity to succeed.

Status of funding: Each of three areas requested \$5K each and we got a total of \$22K. Has guidelines for use, one of which is not more than 10% in resources.

4. RCI September 2017 – Course Options Overview

Very important for students to choose the right course. Guidance counsellors go to the classes to discuss. MyBlueprint is a very powerful tool - can write a resume, plot goals, determine skills, learning skills, course planning, career path, jobs, financial planning, resources, etc.

Students pick their courses, but not all will run depending on # students who sign up. If you really want it, go and pick it otherwise there is a possibility that it will not run.

Parents can create an account as well; will be a different view; can link to your child's account.

Very important they go to the High School Planner to choose your course now.

Other websites to know:

If they wish to go to college – www.ontariocolleges.ca (also has degree program, let's me get to Teacher's College); College is different from University. Colleges have many tours during March break; but can also call and request a tour;

If they wish to go to University – www.electronicinfo.ca; all universities in Ontario on this website. Ontario has the most post-secondary universities. Other provinces, you go to individual websites as there are not as many.

Universities look at top 6; supplementary.

Will start applying in the Fall to different universities; Deadline: mid-Jan; Colleges Feb 1; Can apply early like November; Early admission acceptances – in February; till May; Will start highly competitive programs are getting accepted based on Grade 11 marks.

Scholarships: www.yconic.com; www.scholarshipscanada.com; can register. Have to apply. There are some automatic awards based on average

Bursary: www.Meritaward.ca; Leadership need and overcoming obstacles, not necessarily awarded to those in financially need. Even if you do not win, it is good to go through the process.

Three types:

1. Financial Need
2. Contribution to Community
3. Academic

Wilma works part-time for yconic; Some scholarships are on a 150 word essay; marked on creativity, writing

Careers and Civics – face to face – is offered in July; Online is offered in July and August; Will let students know April/May which schools offers it in the summer.

Can students take Masters courses but not be in the Masters program? Yes, since the focus is to get the highest mark, you can take your child out of the Masters subject that they are weak at – but will forgo being together with your peers and the piece of paper at the end. The Masters program has the enrichment portion and you are better prepared for university.

Pre Advance Placement (Pre AP) – if they score 4 or 5, it prepares them for University, might give you advantage to get into University; any student can write an AP test (\$85 - \$90); does not affect your admission.

Need 30 to graduate, can take up to 34. Summer School, Night School courses also count.

5. Report from the Planning team (Harpreet, Nora, Khaleel, Donna and Kimberly):
 - Board rethinking model school only at Primary School – looking at Secondary Schools

- French Immersion – population in primary school is growing; Humberstone not big enough to take them all; Harpreet will draft a letter/petition to ask for RCI to have French immersion, they have the space and the teachers.
 - Ask Nora to present information next meeting (Donna to connect with her)
 - Find out about the process.
 - March 30 Runnymede's Future
 - April 20 – Intervention for Anxiety Challenges: Consistent for Home and School (cost \$650); All in favour to have this for parents; send flyer to feeder schools; advertise to RCI parents; Have sign up.
 - Also agreed to have YouthSpeak on April 21 for 2 back to back assemblies (cost \$1,050)
6. Budget Report from Treasurer:
- Pizza fundraising today raised \$111 profit.
7. Report from Ward 7 Council – deferred. Anyone can access Ward 7 minutes on their website.
8. Other Business
- Can give \$300 to Centennial Celebration.
- Next pizza fundraising March 30 (**changed to March 27 since Literacy Test is now scheduled for Mar 30**) the , 15 pizzas worked out well. Ross has volunteered to help pre-sell 2-3 days in advance.
- April 6 – parent teacher interviews, samosas? coffee and cookies? TBD.
- Upcoming School Council Meetings
- a. March 30th – Future of Runnymede (Centennial Celebration; Model Schools; French Immersion)
 - b. April 20th – Speaker
 - c. May 25th – Celebration (with potluck)
9. Adjournment @9:15 p.m.

Next meeting – Thursday, March 30, 2017: 7 p.m. Library.