

# **Runnymede C.I. School Council Meeting**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**November 24, 2016: 7:10 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. : Runnymede C.I. Library**

Present (parents): Pi-Yu Cheung, Donna Miato, Khaleel Mohammed, Richard Villavicencio. Kimberky de Witte, Marsha Ray Dragon, Alasis Mohammed, Tanya Jones, Tsering Norphel, Salwa Mohamed, S. Kamboh, Sahra Isse, Deke Nur.

Present (other staff): Ms. Campbell, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Pollice

1. Meeting call to order: 7:15 pm
  - a. Chair had to go home to deal with family issues, sends his regrets
2. Review and approval of last meeting minutes – minutes were distributed in advance.
3. Admin Report
  - Materials were emailed to all parents; voicemail blast was also done to advertise School Council Meeting
  - School is going well, report cards went out Monday
  - Guidance counsel working with students who need support
  - In January we are getting ready for final exams; so parents keep “pushing” your children, to stay focused; Incomplete assignments are often the reason for poor marks so need to get work done; Some children may have work to do during the holidays;
  - Core subjects: Sept-week before final exam = 70%; 15% is Independent Study ISU and 15% exams; so do the best you can for the 70%; some courses will have culminating activities.
  - Early warning letter for children teachers were concerned about went out prior to parent-teacher interviews which have taken place
  - There will be two report cards for Semester One (November and beginning of February);
  - Semester Two starts mid-February.
  - Grade 8 transition – guidance counsellors are working very hard
    - Invited Grade 8 students from Rockcliffe – 120 students and teachers; Humbercrest 120 – students and teachers (1/2 day led by combination of students and teacher of RCI)
    - Nov 17 – Grade 8 Information Night – approx. 150 people, had some pre-tours (unfortunately coincided with elementary parent night, so lower than expected attendance); information packages were also given out; presentation in the auditorium, school council table; Nora spoke to parents. Samosas (fundraising for the school) were well appreciated;
    - Dec 13 –next Grade 8 Information Night for Masters program, expecting 500; volunteers are needed so please let school know if you can attend.
  - Solar Panels – TDSB identified 310 schools that they entered an agreement with a solar panel company; they rent the roof of the school (of which RCI is one) and the rental \$ goes to TDSB; any roofs that needed fixing, the solar panel company would fix the area they needed for the solar panel. This was a good deal. Electricity produced funnelled to the Toronto grid, enough electricity to support 4,500 homes. So roof has been repaired (95%). It is safe for the children, structural engineer came to assess that the weight of the panels were safe for the roof.

- Some residences are also going in direction of solar panels as a green initiative; upfront cost but in future you can get money back.
  - Alarm system has been upgraded.
  - Slowly upgrading other things around the school.
  - Budget given to departments: 5 computer labs; a special media class dependent on Apple computer; field trip request linked to curriculum.
4. Report from the Planning team (Harpreet, Nora, Khaleel, Donna and Kimberley) decided on four key things:
- Model Schools: Currently only happen in elementary school – more funding for outings, equipment, Queen Victoria and Parkdale are model schools; Harpreet, the current Chair, believes those attending RCI would benefit; need to lobby, RCI has more need than an elementary school  
**Late breaking news:** Board has struck a Committee to review model schools in general. This could be a result of lobbying from others and / or our school council representatives last year.
  - French Immersion: children go to Humberside because that school is French Immersion; RCI used to be French Immersion. When government introduced full-time kindergarten, they redefined border, George Syme to Rockcliffe to Humberside (used to be Humbercrest to Humberside); but parents do not want to go to George Syme or Rockcliffe so they do not enrol in French Immersion; hence Humberside is over enrolled by 18%; probably more effective to focus on Trustee to try make RCI French Immersion, like it once used to be; this will give parents more choice.
  - Grade 8 from local schools: encourage enrolment to RCI through open houses etc.
  - Fundraising for the school: like pizza lunches for the children once a month for 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May and other projects.
5. Budget Report from Treasurer:
- School Council has \$844 from the TDSB.
  - Also have \$1,000 (see last meeting minutes) to help improve children achievement; we can decide how to use it as long as we meet the goals; session for kids.
  - Richard handed out TDSB Fundraising guidelines.
  - Main purpose is for parent participation at School Council; don't let funds limit what we want to do.
6. Ward 7 Council – Runnymede compared to others in the neighbourhood is in a lower socio-economic bracket; Nora spoke with Robin (Trustee) and Superintendent (Tracy) to try to get the Board pay attention to RCI. Perhaps Nora can update School Council at next meeting. Budget (RCI gets \$15,000 earmarked for LOI-\$8,000; subsidizing students) etc. is all public information. Lower income elementary schools feeds into lower income secondary schools.
- a. Perhaps we should hosted a Ward 7 Council meeting to gives the Board a firsthand look at the school, the new programs etc. (last time hosted Board was two years ago).
7. Presentation of May 6, 2017 Reunion – John Maniezzo (1966 graduate); school historian. Facebook “Runnymede Remembered”;
- a. 1927 built; organizing a FREE reunion

- b. Library used to be the auditorium
  - c. Introduced Committee members: Ms. Novell, Gil Christie, Vera, Linda, John 1974, Candice, Kay (1950 cheerleader), Arial, Lee Glover, Jim Musket.
  - d. School has fabulous memories, inspiration and kick start where we landed up
  - e. Need the support of the school council
  - f. The event can promote this school to the community
  - g. Next wed – special assembly 4<sup>th</sup> period, speak to senior students on how the school has helped their careers.
  - h. A quote from Jack – “you did not go to RCI for the academics, you did not go for the athletics, you went there to develop yourself as a human being.”
8. Other Business
- a. Donations over \$25 will be receipted by TDSB. Make cheques payable to TDSA, earmarked for RCI School Council
  - b. Weekly newsflash from School Council for upcoming events, speakers, calendar, late start etc. for parents. Parent need information from the school as many of parents don't get information from their children. We can get one made for the Dec 13 Open House. Need volunteers to put it together.
  - c. Website – feedback? Informative, use the calendar. Please check it out as it has been changed, it is current (Mr. Murray and student of Stellar program). Tab for School Council. Specific tab for the 90<sup>th</sup> celebration.
  - d. Protocol for parents emailing teachers – [firstname.lastname@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:firstname.lastname@tdsb.on.ca). Receptionist did not want to give out teacher's first name. Mr. Edwards will ensure it will be going forward
  - e. Please provide feedback about the meeting. Would like it to be interactive.
  - f. Dec 8 – Arts Night 6:30 to 8:30 in the auditorium. Need to advertise.
  - g. Last Friday in Dec – Holiday Bash (11:30 am – 1 pm)
  - h. Reach out to the parents of Robotics. There is a 6 week build period. Jan – April is usually the time the parents are involved. Went to the Worlds for 4 years. Historically raised \$50K. Companies make pledge; some companies doubled their pledge. Point system for judging - is not just about building the best robot, but also about teamwork.
  - i. Sat Dec 3, 8:30 – 5:30 pm –First Lego League (FLL), still looking for judges.
  - j. International Club – food festival / carnival, different booths for different foods. Need parent council support; Spring, after mid-term, before exams (April/May). Can be small in school or big reaching out to the Community; perhaps do it with Spring Concert (May 10<sup>th</sup>) and use it as a fundraising opportunity. (Planning meeting with Ms. Campbell)
9. Adjournment @9:15 p.m.

**Next meeting – Thursday, December 22nd, 2016: 7 p.m. Library (short and sweet).**