

**Runnymede C.I.
School Council Meeting
Minutes of Meeting**

October 27, 2016: 7:15 p.m.- 9:05 p.m. : Runnymede C.I. Library

Present (parents): Shernette Brooks, Pi-Yu Cheung, Kimberly de Witte, Nora Green, Donna Miato, Khaleel Mohammed, Lisa Truant-Tan, Richard Villavicencio.

Present (other staff): Ms. Lovell

Thanks to all who were able to join us at our first RCI School Council meeting of the new school year and who contributed to the pot-luck dinner.

1. Meeting call to order: 7:15 pm

2. Mr. Murray was provided a card and token gift by Shernette Brooks for his assistance in the Parent Reaching Out Grant Application for which the RCI School Council received \$1,000.

Mr. Murray mentioned T-shirts (available for \$10, available in red or black) for sale in support of Black Society Association (BSA).

Shernette also mentioned possibility of an Award Appreciation for the Teachers and RCI staff; dinner with spouses, through donations; to provide more details later.

3. Introduction of Administration and Chair

RCI Staff:

Paul Edwards, Principal

Julie Ardell, Vice-Principal A – L

Joseph Pollice, Vice-Principal M – Z

Ross Murray: Guidance Counsellor A-L

Chair (2015-16):

Shernette Brooks

4. Julie Ardell conducted the School Council Election process. Two candidates put forward their names for Chair; a secret ballot as held; both candidates shared a bit about their background, shared reasons for their desire to be the Chair and responded to what they believe the Mandate of the School Council was.

Shernette: Used to be a teacher at TDSB, is currently in law, has networks with MPs; as Chair last year, she was active in the Community, came into the school when needed, communicated with the teachers and students. She learned a lot and enjoyed her time with us last year and would like to be the Chair again this school year.

Shernette believes the School Council is for parents and teachers and its mandate is to:

- Be aware of what goes on in the school
- Voice opinions of changes we want to see in the school
- Identify gaps between children and school
- Is-the go between the school and TDSB

Gurpreet: wants to attempt to bring the concept of Model Schools into High School (currently only available to primary and secondary schools) as there are many advantages to being a model school; would like RCI to be the pioneer as the first school with it. A petition to be signed by parents was not acted upon last year so he would want to work on it.

Gurpreet believes the School Council's mandate is to

- Act as a link to the community
- Present student and parent issues to the TDSB
- Fundraising
- Bring benefits to the school

Election results for the School Year 2016/17 are as follows:

- Chair: Harpreet Gulri
- Co-Chair: Shernette Brooks
- Secretary: Pi-Yu Cheung
- Treasurer: Richard Villavicencio
- Ward 7 Council Co-Reps: Nora Green, Ross Murray

Thanks to all who stepped forward to support and help us lead our school in this aspect.

5. Admin Report

- Members viewed Director Malloy's 2016-17 message on TDSB New Vision Video
 - Mandate of RCI a) Achievement goal b) Equity goal c) Well-being goal
 - RCI teachers already met to define goals
- Good start to the new year
- 670 Students, 42.5 Teachers (10 Heads of Department)
- RCI received approval for 2 Heads of Departments for 2017. Preliminary thoughts:
 - Head of Wellness and Equity
 - Head of Special Education (RCI currently has 162 Special Needs children)
- Special programs:
 - Special High School Major (SHSM) in two areas: Digital Media and Information Science. Red Seal certificate worth thousands of dollars.
 - Special Education program currently fragmented; one teacher per semester; also set aside four for children to come for help.
 - Breakfast program: served to children in the morning; provided by TDSB
 - Learning Coaches: Math focus for JK-12
 - Leadership Class of Grade 11 (Portage Trail)
 - Bring about 100 children from Humbercrest to Programming
 - Right to Play Kids (King George) – Grade 6
- School budget: \$190,113
- Budget under School Council Jurisdiction is \$913.00 - same as last year

6. School Council Long/Short Term Goals 2016-17

- Fundraising? Not a strong push in high schools. If we did it, what would it go towards? Many possibilities were mentioned:
 - Library cabinets to hold memorabilia
 - Security System \$10K + another \$5K
 - Robotics program (\$40-\$50K raised annually)
 - Football helmets
 - 90th Reunion Event \$5K - \$8K (will be great for the community; great for school spirit; dry run for 100th anniversary; possibly 1 ½ day)
- No restrictions to have pizza lunches once a month
- Increase the number of parents in the School Council; send reminders for School Council meetings through email and robo-calls
- Form a sub-committee to write a proposal for short/long term goals and present at next meeting

7. Other Business

- Annual Parent Involvement Seminar Saturday November 19, 2016 at Earl Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess Avenue 8 am – 3:45 pm; can bring up questions as voices of RCI so they can be discussed at the TDSB.
 - RCI 90th Anniversary Event – May 6, 2017; more details and opportunities to help will be provided at future meetings
 - Grade 8 Open House:
 - November 17, 2016 (Masters program)
 - December 13, 2016 (regular program)
- Need contact with outside community
Will advertise in local newspapers
- Other ideas provided:
 - Reach out to Grade 7 schools (perhaps in the Spring); bring them to RCI and introduce them to the school
 - Can we go to Humbercrest and talk to students there?

8. Adjournment @9:05 p.m.

Next meeting – Thursday, November 24th, 2016: 7 – 9 p.m. Library.