

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

Minutes for December 13, 2022

Time: 6:30pm

Attendees: Nigel Mohammed, Delia Jarczyn, Shawn Gauthier, Kin Irving, Katelynn Borg, Charlotte Burucanay, Yelena Kim, Matt, Melissa, Nicholas Senyonjo, Beverly Fortune, Mattie P, 16478183418, Matthew Price, Chosen-Emmanuel, Dmypto, Liz, Limos, Sylvia Kim Cota, Cynthia G, Aiyven,

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting began at 6:36pm with 9 participants
- Brief introductions of parent council (Delia, Kate, Nigel)
- Delia explained how to ask questions to keep meeting flow

2. Review of the School Council Code of Ethics

3. Update on outstanding minutes – May 31st and October 25th

- Concern about missing minutes
 - Determined 1 council minutes meeting were due to insufficient council members in attendance
- Kate moved to approve May minutes, 2nd by Delia. Nigel approved as well

4. Additional nominations for School Council 2022-2003

- a. Shawn received 1 nomination from the parent body
 - Individual will be acclaimed
 - There was 2nd who withdrew their nomination

5. Principal/Vice-Principal's Report – Mr. Gauthier and Mrs. Irving

- Shawn began with staffing updates
 - Largest reorganization, all LTOs, 1 placed yesterday
- a. Still operating with acting caretaker, Omar who is outstanding & very professional
- b. CUPE labour dispute over due to contract ratification

Chairperson - Delia Jarczyn Treasurer – Ivana Lukic-Miloloza
Members Without Portfolio – Sylvia Kim Cota - Kate Borg-Lacey – Nigel Mohammed

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- c. No questions for administration regarding staffing
- d. Administration recognises food insecurity in community
 - Looking at alternative vendor (Toronto Foundation for Student Success) for snack program
 - Non-perishable items donated by council still in stock
 - School activities picking up pace for extra-curriculars
 - Very Successful Bookfair
 - \$8500 in sales, school gets approximately \$2,000 in books/library materials
 - Current food-drive off to a great start, ending this Thursday to be distributed before holidays
 - Intramurals taking place throughout the school
 - Cross country, flag football, lunch time schedule created for gym use, 72 grade 1 students showed up on the 1st day
 - Primary choir starting up again
 - Art Club for grade 6; trying to expand to further grades
 - No questions from parents regarding intramurals or extra curriculars
 - Holiday season. School will incorporate various faith backgrounds
 - Spirit Wear Day very successful. 2 classes had 100% participation!
 - This Friday, inside out (backwards) Day!
 - Holiday Colours Day as well
 - Door decorating and sing along/caroling in the works
 - No holiday concert was planned due to CUPE uncertainty
 - Field trips are on; recent field trip was to Queen's Park
 - Field trip bussing expensive. Council has put aside some funds to help subsidise the cost
 - Field trips encouraged, but not mandated. No questions raised from the parents during meeting regarding field trips
 - Ongoing concerns of bathroom vandalism by students, wasting toilet paper and wasting liquid soap
 - Student body has been spoken to regularly to avoid vandalizing school property
 - Ongoing concerns of graffiti on walls throughout school with permanent markers on weekends
 - JK French immersion acceptance from Rockford will be received shortly from TDSB
 - Kin mentioned picture day postponement; photos will most likely arrive in 2023

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- Picture retake day has not been determined yet
- Concern was raised students were told how to pose for photos

6. Rockford Community Safety Issues

a. Parking

- People continue to not obey basic parking signs or using driving/parking etiquette
- Parent body warned parking enforcement continue to patrol and issue tickets

7. School Council Update

a. Pizza lunches

- Dominos on board for pizza fundraising
- Cheese or pepperoni options
- Individually boxed personal pizza for \$3 or \$2.25 for 2 large slices from larger box
- Labour needed to distribute pizza
- Delia raised idea of children coming down to get the pizza themselves
- Looking at doing weekly pizza on Fridays starting January 20th
- Pros & cons regarding delivery method for pizza discussed

b. Online safety presentation

- Awaiting correspondence; hopefully in the New Year

c. By-law amendments

- TDSB changed the way school council bylaws are outlined; migrating to standardized template
- Council will determine what to keep or change

d. SSON

- Needs to be resubmitted
- List put together by council for superintendent for hiring process for principals submitted annually

8. Slido Questions & Answers

- **Matthew Price asked about French immersion program from Willowdale to Fisherville**
 - **ARK needed to be setup by trustees & administration**
- **Concerns raised about length of council meetings**
 - **We are trying to address all questions as fast as possible**
- **Door 6 often closed during rain, why is this happening?**
 - **Possible supervision issue for students entering door 6. Issue with be further investigated**
 - **Matt at door 4 and suggested students use alternative entry doors if their door is closed**
- **Child was called only person of colour in class. Parents concerned about possible racism**
 - **This particular issue was not raised with the office**
 - **Shawn reenforced zero-tolerance for racism**
 - **Kin mentioned various board wide initiatives to counter racism**
- **What is being done with ongoing physical conflicts at school?**
 - **Shawn mentioned each conflict brought to their attention is dealt with on a case-by-case basis**
 - **There is supervision during breaks and are encouraged to report any problems or conflicts that arise**

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- **Majority of conflict arises during unstructured time**
 - **Children are learning how to manage & deal with their time in the yard**
- **Social worker will engage as needed, if necessary**
- **Is there a way to expedite furniture in classrooms?**
- **Shawn mentioned safety measures in place and costs involved for additional cubbies being installed inside classrooms**
- **What is the school doing to tackle ice problems outside?**
 - **Salting as best as possible by caretaking staff**
 - **City salt trucks appear to have salted local sidewalks around school**
 - **Shawn also outside putting salt where he sees needed**
- **Are playscapes allowed to be used in winter?**
 - **Shawn said all playscapes are closed during winter months**
- **Are parents allowed inside the school?**
 - **Parents are not allowed to freely walk around the school building. Parents must enter through the front door and sign in at the office when entering the building**

9. Other Business

- Matt thanked the parent community; said it was greatly appreciated

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- Matthew Price asked if masking can be collectively agreed to be worn on a classroom basis
 - Direction can only be given by public health. Masking is strongly encouraged by TDSB but cannot be enforced by the school or board

10. Next Meeting Date

- **January 23rd 2023 tentative**

Meeting adjourned:

- **Adjourned 8:40pm**

