

# Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

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## Minutes for Monday, January 23, 2023

**Time: 6:30pm**

Slight technical problems delayed the virtual meeting until 6:37

Attendees:

In person: Delia Jarczyn, Shawn Gauthier, Kin Irving

Virtual: Nigel Mohammed, A Alkuino & I. Muyco, Alnie Caipang, Beverly Fortune, Burucanay, iPhone, iPhone (Olga), Joanna, Hanib B, Kanghee Han, Katelynn Borg, Kimberly, Lucky Panch, Matt, Matthew Price, Mirwais Nahzat, Naro, Nicholas Senyonjo, Sylvia K, Victoria N, Zoom User, Natasha, Elena, Mohammed Helwa, Schnuerer, Kyle Boland, Regina Jacob

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Executive members briefly introduced themselves as well principals Mr. Gauthier and Mrs. Irving.

### 2. Reminder of the School Council Code of Ethics

Brief reminder of code of ethnics reviewed by Delia.

### 3. Approval of Minutes – October 25 and December 13, 2022

**Motioned by:** Kate Borg    **Seconded by:** Nigel Mohammed

**All in favour:** Passed

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

- New caretaker, Markus, began mid January. Omar, our past caretaker will be missed. Markus is permanent.
- 1 ECE has been away since the beginning of the New Year. Job posted daily, but often not picked up due to staffing availability.
- Extra-circulars are back in full swing. Many thanks to staff who offer their time to help run the various programs. Basketball 4-6s, parachute club for 1 & 2, calmness for 1 & 2s, primary choir French & English, glee club for grades 5 & 6, art club.

Chairperson - Delia Jarczyn

Treasurer – Ivana Lukic-Miloloza

Members Without Portfolio:

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- Sylvia asked if we can get a list of all the extra-circulars available so parents can offer encouragement to join various clubs. Mr. Gauthier agreed it was a great idea and will add it to the school newsletter.
- Staffing coordination is a tremendous task and was only recently finalized.
- Virtual school registration is once again open for 2023-2024 school year with no pivot points mid-year. High likelihood of other school (not Rockford) being designated as home school.
- Outside agencies are once again back in schools
  - Cyber safety, Paul Davis will be hosting a seminar once Mr. Gauthier receives a response
  - Colby (anti-bullying workshop) through the lens of a magic show
- Safe & Caring Committee
  - Committee gathers once a month to discuss community safety and what else can be done to encourage a safe & inclusive environment.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 8:30am.
  - Students will also be involved.

## 5. Rockford Community Safety Issues

- **Parking reminders**
- On-going reminder of parking infractions and illegal parking in the parking lots, streets & surrounding neighbourhood

## 6. School Council Update

- **Friday Pizza Lunches**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> pizza lunch starting soon
    - 187 orders so far! Approximately 1 more week to go. Hard deadline; ensure orders are placed on time
    - Various ordering options this year
    - Mr. Gauthier asked about staffing for distribution of pizzas
      - Delia will be able distribute for around 11:15-12 and in need of additional volunteers for the various weeks

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- **TDSB Information sharing**
  - Principal Interview Committee process
  - Islamophobia information session shared (pdf) shared in chat
  - Raise a Reader (pdf) shared in chat
- **Online safety presentation**
- Discussed earlier during principal's message
- **SSON – online polling**
- Criteria Rockford looks for in principal for superintendent to consider provided by school parent body
  - Kate reviewed the feedback provided
  - Poll will be kept open for a few more days for parents to provide further feedback
- **Parent/caregiver outreach**
  - **Committees**
    - Sylvia suggested parent council secure a physical space in the school to help promote increased participation
- **School-wide Event**
  - Delia asking for ideas on when & where we should plan for a schoolwide event
    - Mr. Gauthier happy to support council
    - Mrs. Irving asked what was done in past years to get an idea of what worked
  - We will get back to this topic next meeting

## 7. Slido Questions & Answers

- **Any field trips plans?**
  - Plans dependant on a classroom-by-classroom basis
  - Field trips must be curriculum related
- **The portables have keycards to enter the school and use the bathroom. When they go missing or get broken the kids are told it takes 3 months to replace. They have to wait at the door for someone to come out. Can the school order extra keycards ahead of time so they are available when one gets broken?**

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- Cards are administered by TDSB Security. Generally does not take 3 months
- Strict issuance; cannot order spares and simply have on-hand
- **I want to know about the pizza program**
  - Discussed earlier
- **Parents without passes keep parking in the disability parking spots. Can you do anything to stop them from doing it? It happens every day and it's not fair.**
  - Discussed earlier today
- **Will there be a ceremony at the end of the year for graduation that parents can attend?**
  - Yes
- **When will the SK's have their grad photos taken?**
  - No
  - Vendor hard to schedule
  - Few families ordered
- **Will the students ever eat lunch in the gym again?**
  - Not for the remainder of this school year
  - Further planning needed if transitioning back into the gym
- **What extracurricular activities are being offered to the students (choir, sports, music, clubs etc.) and what grade are students able to start these?**
  - Additional communications will be made
- **When the schoolyard was frozen, it was too dangerous for my elderly parent to walk on it to pick up my child. What can we do when this happens?**
  - Concern for everyone in community
  - Issue raised with the board itself
  - Snow map is outlined what is necessary to be shoveled
  - New additional path created by caretaker in back school yard

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- **Who would be responsible if someone fell and seriously injured themselves due to the icy conditions on school property?**
  - TDSB board issue
  
- **Will there be a Science Fair this year? If not, why?**
  - No
  
- **Do we have a bullying problem? (One of the qualities someone suggested to look for in a new principal seem to imply there is)**
  - Not an ongoing problem that school is aware of
  - If issues arise, teachers & principals will work towards a resolution
  - Anti-bullying specialist will be visiting Rockford
  
- **How about a spelling bee?**
  - Nothing planned at the moment
  - Some staff reluctant due to stigma of competition

## 8. Other Business

- Retractable gym wall divider not being fixed by board
  - Mr. Gauthier told its not feasible to repair
  - Nigel suggested a replacement such as what Fisherville received (curtain style divider)
  
- Matt Price asked if there is anything further that can be done to encourage mask wearing
  - Mr. Gauthier said offers masks to students who may request one and mentions of benefits of wearing a mask in an inside space

## 9. Next Meeting Date

- February 28th

## Meeting adjourned:

- Adjourned at 8:40pm

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