

RICHVIEW SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – October 13, 2015

These minutes are considered 'Draft' until they are approved at the next Parent Council Meeting

Welcome/ Introductions/Approval of Agenda/ Approval of Minutes – Michelle Minott

Pub Night Update – Lynn Campbell– Date – Thursday October 29th

- Now 2 weeks and 2 days until the event
- Details have been sorted out after meeting with the owner
- \$16,500 dollars' worth of auction items (expect close to \$20,000) are available
- Biggest thing now is to sell tickets – if everyone can help
- At about 75 would like 150-200 tickets sold
- Challenge is that because this is a fundraising item, we have to abide by the anti-spam legislation
- Can it be posted on Facebook – Lynn to send Yun the poster
- Poster is on the school website
- Sponsor poster will be created and posted at the venue on the night of the event
- Use the SAC twitter account – not really being used right now but could be leveraged in the future
- Could be an idea to print off copies and give to students to take home
- Are volunteers needed at the event? Lynn has a committee that she will be drawing from

Mental Illness Session - Planning Update – Josie D'Agostino

- Wellness conference is moving along
- Still a stigma about mental illness even amongst adults
- \$1,000 grant to be used for this event:
 - Wellness Fair
 - end of November
 - would be an evening event
 - Similar format as that of STEM event
 - Invite organizations like Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke, Diabetes Associate and others that promote overall wellness
 - Also organizations like CAMH, George Hull, Rexdale Children's Centre and others who deal more with mental health issues
 - Workshops later in the year (Feb-Mar)
 - once the interest from the Wellness Fair is determined
- An update will be provided once the dates and times are finalized

Student Council Report – Yun Kim, Emma Campisi

- SPC (discount cards) - sold about 40 cards – SAC makes about \$1 per card sold
- Collected money for MADD for the family in Vaughan – about \$500 raised
- Toonies for Turkeys at Commencement raised about \$130
- Held a spirit event for Blue Jays last Tuesday – students brought in Blue Jay gear
- SAC is waiting for the samples of Spirit Wear (hoodies, crewnecks, sweatpants, quarter zips). They will start selling them in two weeks
- Class rep names have been gathered so that info can be sent out properly
- Pub night has been added to the RAC Facebook group

- Halloween pre – spirit week for student body – candy apple eating, BBQ on Oct 30
- Dodgeball to be run in the gym tournament intramural tournament – makes about \$5 per person per team and the money goes towards SAC treasury for activities
- CN Tower stair climb in November is being organized
- Prom venues are being reviewed

Principal's Report – Sam Miceli

- Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the Commencement
- Roof repair have started being setup. This will go on as long as 6 weeks. There will be an odour, despite fans and monitoring of doors and windows
- Safe and Caring committee – waiting to hear back from Toronto Police Services on student and community presentations. Students have expressed interest in substance abuse and safety in the community. Expecting the agenda for the community presentation shortly
- Copies of the school budget were distributed and discussed:
 - Received \$1,000 more than last year
 - Information on how 2014-2015 funds were allocated was handed out
 - This years' allocation will be based on the previous years' actual
 - Textbooks are covered by pooling money that would have gone to each department and set aside for textbooks
- School improvement plan
 - Purpose is to help each school focus efforts and resources in the correct place
 - Includes four pillars – Literacy, Mathematics & Numeracy, Pathways, and Community, Culture and Caring. Targets and actions are set against each
 - Curriculum leaders will review the goals and assess the action items
- Projected staff allocation – we have 49 more students than projected. Two more teachers were approved. English, French immersion, Math/Sci (which are overflowing classes) will be relieved. This is mostly for Grade 9 (enrollment was 262 instead of 223 students). Mostly grade 9s and grade 10s will move classes. Parents will receive notification via letter that their students' teacher will change if their student is impacted
- Richview achieved 89% in EQAO math testing
- Richview received 94% in literacy testing
- Candidacy meeting could not be held at the school as insufficient candidates could commit to attending
- The Field of Dreams is in progress:
 - Field changes (turf, board) – TDSB's CAT or Central Accommodation Team has approved the project. Need clarification on the terms of the partnership for funding (i.e. through City, or with a for profit company, etc.).
 - FYI 70% of 975 students are directly involved in athletic programming and will benefit from the field change
 - Most of the schools in Etobicoke have 2 gyms; Richview has one so a more usable field would help ease pressures.
 - Erratic seasons have caused problems with the field – very uneven, lots of rain and mud causes problems such as serious injury to student athletes.
 - Will also be used by other groups in the community

- Next step is to create a broad based committee – see Sam if you’re interested in being part of the Steering Committee
- Honouring lost Saints:
 - Richview graduate from 2002- Mark Cesare lost his life last year.
 - Peter Mackenzie (teacher) lost his battle with cancer in September
 - On November 13th – a celebration/scholarships with cash bar will be held in the cafeteria where the Peter Mackenzie Humanity Award will award \$5,000 to each of a male and/or female graduating in the Humanities, followed by presentations in the auditorium.
 - Ben DeLuca (grade 11 student)– passed away suddenly on Sept 30
 - TDSB grief counsellors were at Richview and available to the students
 - Sports were cancelled out of respect
 - Different ways of honouring Ben’s memory have been raised:
 - ordered decals for the football helmets
 - Memory book is being signed by students which will be given to Ben’s parents.
 - On behalf of Parent Council, Sam delivered a fruit basket to the family
 - Bens two Richview sports jerseys will be mounted
 - A bronze plaque is in progress
 - An in-memorium award (with a plaque) is under development

Teachers Report – Olga Calabria and Stath Koumoutseas

- Homework club – Math, Science, and French are preparing a schedule
- A schedule of teacher availability is being worked on
- Scarlet and gold week started Tuesday Oct. 6 – pep assembly – a combination of celebrating Richview and remembering Ben
- Friday night – FNL – has evolved into a community event (both Juniors and seniors won). Proceeds fund the football program (no money allocated to football from the school). This year there are no grants. Thanks to students, staff, parents for helping out
- RAC activities:
 - hosts pep assembly
 - FNL
 - scarlet and gold events (scavenger hunt)
 - Basketball tournament in January
 - Athletic banquet
- Going forward QSP magazines (hard copies forms will be sent home) fundraising will begin. \$10 per subscription goes to athletic programs
- RAC wear coming up – this is ideal for students who are on teams when teams don’t order clothing (but all can buy!)
- YES! It is possible to just write a cheque to RAC rather than ordering magazines
- New cheerleading squad, lacrosse team, boys rugby – ran as new programs last year
- Ski team coach retired – not sure if there will be a team this year- will need to gauge the interest with the kids and staff and make a decision

Treasurer’s Report – Heather Smith

- Still transitioning. Report will be provided next month

Chair Report – Michelle Minot

- Ward Meeting was held Oct 6th. Presentations were done by Carla Kisco (TDSB Associate Director, Finance and Operations), Yvan Baker (MPP, Etobicoke Centre), Councillor John Campbell (Ward 4 Etobicoke Centre) and Chris Glover (Trustee)
- Main item was potential closings of two schools in the are– Silvercreek Junior and Buttonwood. These schools are close to regular attendance and service children with special needs.
- Discussed that TDSB does not have access to the development charges like the Catholic school board does therefore there is failing infrastructure on the older schools. Community consultations are being held on these two schools and how the community would be impacted if these two schools close. These will take place in November (advance notice will be given).
- Karen Pitre – (Special Advisor to the Premier on community hubs) – talks about creating community hubs and if these two schools can be community hubs rather than selling off the property. Her report can be found at <http://www.ontario.ca/page/community-hubs>
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Special Education Forum (Sarah Jama on Advocacy Skills) - October 20th 7-9PM – at Martingrove
 - Ward Council Meeting - November 10th, 7-9PM Mill Valley Junior School
 - Toronto Ward Boundary Review – Thursday October 22nd 7-9PM, Fairfield Seniors Centre and Saturday October 24 10am-12PM, Humber Summit Library
 - Focus: Overcoming the Stigma of having Special Needs – November 24th 7-9PM, Hollycrest Middle School

Other Topics for Discussion:

- a) Arnold Math (Heather Smith) – Tutor Company had donated something for the auction. Discussed if there would be interested in offering some specific sessions on math and learning. He could provide various topics. He could provide Parent Council a talk. Potential topic could be how to help your kid prepare for exams (especially helpful for grade 9 parents). He has offered to do this free of charge. It could be combined with another night. Can he provide Parent Council with an overview?

Action: Invite Mr. Heron back to parent council to discuss concerns on support for parents and students for grade 9 Math

- b) Poinsettia fundraiser – In the past, has been done around the Nov 19 – Dec 3, with delivery Dec 12th. Will be looking for around the same dates this year. With the anti-Spam, how is the best way to get the word out about the sale (last year was less because of the anti-spam)? Can we use the school sign to advertise the poinsettias? The money raised from poinsettias goes towards the school
- c) STEM - money from last year – spent \$900 last year for STEM activities with kids, parents. Need to find a date for STEM – will be used for a talk and refreshments – date TBD (next council)
- d) Graduation 2016 (Tracy Davison and Lynn Campbell)

- Concern is that graduation that not enough graduates can come back in the fall
- Would it be possible to schedule in the spring or the Friday night of Thanksgiving
- Used to be held in November
- Suggested that we steer clear of June commencement because of the lack of time to prepare awards, certificates, heat. Semestered schools are easier because they have only 4 classes to update
- Options are:
 - Friday night of Thanksgiving
 - Week after Thanksgiving (when some universities have reading week)
- Letters can written to universities to excuse students from lectures for commencement
- Decorations need to be moved away from Thanksgiving and focus on the celebration of graduation. Needs to be more Saints focused. Money needs to be spent on new decorations which can be reused.
- Caps and gowns should be considered
- To deal with more students attending, issue tickets – to limit the number of people – and offer extra tickets by lottery

Other:

Outside Stairs – discussions are in progress with the City of Toronto because they own the property beyond the trees. The stairs are not likely to be done this year

Next Meeting – Tuesday November 24, 2015

7:00PM

School Library