

RICHVIEW SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - January 21, 2014

Welcome/ Introductions/Approval of Agenda/ Approval of Minutes

Student Council Report – Paloma Lopez-Bondi and William Westaway

SAINTS Initiative – Upcoming events include shoveling snow and volunteering at a seniors home. The new t-shirts that the SAINTS students will be wearing were introduced.

After Muskoka Woods there will be an Activity Day whereby senior students will connect with the grade nine students to discuss relevant issues/concerns.

School Clothing – Spirit Wear – There has been a problem with the distributor regarding orders. As well, some orders have not been picked up by students. All in all, the student wear should have a profit of approximately \$1,000.

Ski Day has been cancelled as the venue was not booked.

Fundraising presentations by Curriculum Leaders to help allocate the \$7,000+ from fundraising.

Lily Perreira – Curriculum Leader for English/Library/Media/Literacy and Peter Gehbauer – Librarian

After consultation, it was determined that they would request funds to aid the library in order to serve the most amount of students. The library provides instruction and resources for 300 – 350 students daily (data provided by the turnstile). The library is staffed at lunch and after school until 4pm. It is the most used library.

Peter Gehbauer – the main issue is the lack of computers. Example – Richview hosts lunch and learns to help prepare students for the EQAO test. Recently it was discovered these computers as too old for the TDSB programs such as Blended Learning/DTL. As well, in the past, library computers have been used to do the EQAO test on the computer for those with accommodations but these units are too old.

The library budget is not sufficient to maintain and upgrade computers. Presently there are 26 computers at the front of the library. (3 are dysfunctional, 2 other monitors are not working, and none are under warranty – no replacement or repair). Of the 24 at the back of the library – 3 are not working.

Wish list – Replace desktops with portable computers-Laptops and re-arrange space to have only one area of portable computers with increased docks and wifi.

Olivia Bourgeois – Curriculum Leader of Modern Languages

Wish List – Interactive Classroom Response System (Clickers)

Cost - \$2,005.00 (TDSB audio/visual equipment catalogue)

There are many advantages of this technology. For the students it increases student engagement, provides immediate feedback, the posted results are anonymous, also minimizes the post-secondary technological learning curve for those familiar with it. For teachers it provides immediate feedback, it is a great tool for assessment, it is mobile and user-friendly. Clickers are currently being used in other subject areas – business and math.

Two teachers at Richview have received formal training, they have a copy of the SMART response training manual and there is a standard manufacturer's warranty of two years.

Maureen McDonagh-Vella – Assistant Curriculum Leader - Canadian & World Studies, Social Sciences & the Humanities

In discussion with members of the department, they decided they wanted to focus on “what can we do with what we have”. The use of effective AV/technology would enhance classroom teaching and engage students more with their own work and presentations.

Wish list –

Pen Mouse - You can use it and pass it on to the student. Improves PowerPoint/presentation skills. Answers the big question of “how can you engage others”?

Walcom Graphic tablet - \$100.00

Student presentations – better equipment than boards

Desktop- at front of classroom

Projector – much better graphics. We had a recent example of having to purchase two bulbs that burnt out on dated machines that cost \$200.

Projector screen – TDSB - \$ 108 / Future shop - \$ 200 (Sam – can't do business with Future shop)

External Hard drives - \$80 x 4.

Michael Sexsmith – Assistant Curriculum Leader - Health & Physical Education, Athletics, Co-Curricular

Wish list – MacBook - \$1500

Student Leadership – Muskoka Woods and Albion Hills

It comes with locks, is portable, can do slideshows. This will help with all the organizing and preparation that goes into these two events.

Usha Kelley Maharaj – Assistant Curriculum Leader - Science

Vision - Three phases of a technology plan for science.

Wish list – First phase

8 Desktops for student centres (\$3600), 3 Desktops for teacher stations (\$1350), 2 desktops for office (\$900)

This would allow the teacher to project lecture notes, AV files and routine software packages (Excel, Geometer's Sketchpad) as well as use and project internet based software (eg. Gapminder), and restrict the screen information displayed to student vs. teacher.. It would allow students to conduct investigations using existing Varinier probs (currently in boxes).

The technology that is used in science at Richview is not effective for science. Three computers have died – 2 have been refurbished at a cost of \$1000 from their budget.

The science department has used the following cost reduction strategies in order to deliver the curriculum:

Substitute consumer grade for lab grade chemicals, barter (eg. Dissection specimen swap), borrow (eg. models borrowed from BCI this year), Restore/repair of equipment (20 microscopes repaired for the cost of 1 new; human skeleton rebuilding underway), and relocating equipment buried/forgotten etc.

Georgia Markakos – Assistant Curriculum Leader – Business Studies and Lino Ragno - Photography, Yearbook

Wish list – New Desktops/ Mac computers

The “new” computers received from the board are out-dated. We currently have 30 Dell computers that are 15 years old and are constantly breaking. They are slow to start-up, unable to load files and are constantly crashing since they were not meant to run sophisticated software.

Classes should be hands on but students complete assignments at home instead. Students also bring their laptops to school where there is a risk of theft or damage.

MAC computers would enable Richview students to create and assemble a credible portfolio if they wish to pursue a further education or career in the creative arts (eg graphics, web design, photography etc.).

Emily Fitzgerald – Assistant Curriculum Leader - Art Department

Wish list – Art Department – MAC laptop – and VGA connected cable/cord - \$30

Wish list – Music - Instrument repairs and bows for strings

Wish list – Drama –

VCA Adapter - \$30

IPad

Laptop

Lighting/soundboard

Carol Lau Liew – Curriculum Leader - Guidance

Wish list – iPads (10) - portability

Special Ed Technology – 102 students

Laptops don't boot up. We can't apply for new equipment because we have old equipment from Special Ed students but the equipment is obsolete.

We need to change the way we look at technology, and think of the future. The Peel Board has a partnership with Vig Solutions. Students come to school with refurbished tablets \$55 per student.

We also need more access points.

Math Department

Sent e-mail. New computers needed.

** The teachers presented (in person and via e-mail) very passionate, yet considered, feedback on how the money could be spent to enrich our children's learning and experience at Richview.

Public Health Survey – Edie Cade – Public Health Liaison Nurse

Toronto Public Health is planning a survey to better understand the health and health behaviours of Toronto youth. Approximately 12,000 students at 166 randomly selected schools will participate. One classroom at each grade will be randomly selected. Richview is one of the selected schools and will take part on Monday February 10, 2014. Parental consent will be required as well as active consent by the students.

The survey has three parts; a written questionnaire on health topics, a measurement of height and weight by a Public Health Nurse and an oral check by a Dental Hygienist. All data collected is anonymous and confidential. No individual student, class or school data will be released. They are looking at trends and hope to use the findings to guide future programs and services to serve Toronto's youth.

Staff Report – Olga Calabria

The Principal Advisory Group will speak to students about stress and how to handle it. An upcoming stress is the report card and teachers are trying to alleviate some of the pressure by spreading out assignments.

Principal's Report – Sam Miceli

There is additional challenge from the curriculum that must be taught, assessed and evaluated all before report cards marks are due resulting in the convergence of multiple evaluations. A balance is attempted to reduce the amount of stress caused by use of an Evaluation Board in the office that teachers use to avoid multiple tests on the same days.

The Curriculum Leaders have provided a needs assessment with long term and short term goals to help allocate funds raised by parent donations.

An example of how the student activity is used is by subsidizing 23 students for the Muskoka Woods trip.

Treasurers Report – Tina Majthenyi

Opening balance - \$1230.54

Poinsettia sales - \$649.55

Toques - \$415.00

Balance - \$ 2,295.09

\$ 2,282.29 (Adjusted with banking monthly and deposit fees)

Chair Report – Charlene Sam & Bev Firchuk

Meeting went long so it was decided to meet again for those that are able to on Monday January 27 at 7:00 pm to further discuss the allocation of the funds donated by parents.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18TH – 7:00 P.M. - LIBRARY

