

RICHVIEW COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
School Council Meeting Minutes (Virtual on Zoom)
Thursday, December 9, 2021, 7:00pm

ATTENDEES:

RCI Staff:	Lucie Kletke (Principal), Nana Bediako-Amoah (VP), Michael Colbert (Teacher)
Council Members:	Caroline Cho (co-chair, secretary), Maria Skinner (co-chair), Nadia Frost (co-treasurer), Manisha Sharma (co-treasurer), Amy Ferguson (Voting Member), Rhonda Ross, Lisa Tkachuk (voting member), Krista Vanderwal (voting member), Marie Cook (Graduation)
Others:	Tiina Eagles, Jack Switzer (student rep), Andrea Dovale (student rep)

* **MISSING VOTING MEMBERS:** Vanessa Keall-Vejar (Fundraising, PIAC Rep)

WELCOME

- Approval of quorum (Motion: Caroline, 2nd: Maria)
- Approval of meeting minutes (Motion: Maria, 2nd: Manisha)

SAC UPDATE: Jack Switzer & Andrea Dovale

- **Candygrams:** Going super well. Students are enjoying this.
- **Braeburn Toy Drive:** Thank you for all the donations. We have enough toys which will be wrapped on Monday & Tuesday of next week and delivered Thursday.
- **Clothing Line Contest:** Almost finalized. Will have a winner announced before the end of the semester.
- **Spirit Week:** Looking forward to it - especially Pajama Day!
- **Take your grade 9 to lunch day:** Really Successful! Participation: 50:50 (Grade 9 : Grade 11/12)

PRINCIPAL UPDATE:

Thank you to each one of you for partnering with us to support our students and programs. It has been quite challenging for everyone – students and staff members. Thank you to our teachers, support staff and caretakers for their hard work and commitment. I know they are exhausted

Major Issues:

1. Increase in acts of discrimination in the school and on social media

- RCI Confessions – anonymous
- Mostly grade 10 and 11 students
- Expected practices
- Continue to work as a team to address discrimination and create a safe, inclusive and respectful school environment. We want each one of our students to feel safe, welcomed and valued

2. Vaping is taking place in the washrooms.

- MADD assembly (entire school) – Tuesday December 14th

- Weed Out the Risk (smaller group sessions) in the new year

3. Wellness issues

- many students are struggling with mental health and wellness issues. Our team of Guidance Counselors, Social Worker, Child and Youth Worker and our admin team work together to address and support our students and families.

4. Semester 2: Switch Forms

- We will receive the data in mid-December and will review
- We want to emphasize the benefits of in-person learning
- Some of the core subjects may be offered in hubs.
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- Lucie to send out Dan's letter of thanks for clothing initiative

Regarding racist comments & rci.confessions

- **Question (Krista):** is this the first time something like this has happened. **Lucie:** It has happened in the past (on Twitter).
- Ms. Bediako made an announcement with a very powerful message.
- Reminder that these posts can be criminal. RCI is working with police and with central staff.
- Met with students to share their thoughts and suggestions on how they feel this topic should be approached
- students are not feeling safe in the school
- **Comment/Question (Marie Cook):** easy to be mean to someone you don't know. Students are suffering from not being able to have things like Muskoka Woods to connect with other students and bond. Can we be doing more social events so that slowly and gradually we can build a community? **Lucie:** maybe something for semester 2
- **Comment (Amy Ferguson):** Grade 10's are a little lost. Love to see the kids get to do more this year.
- **Comment/Question (Tiina Eagles):** How about giving more designated breaks, especially mask breaks. **Lucie:** We tried that in the past but it's chaos. More problems come up. We have pivoted. Students still get wellness breaks, but it has to be with their teacher supervision. It's a question of liability and supervision.
- **Comment (Mr. Colbert):** Break was far more significant to him than to students.

Regarding Vaping

- Have already put measures into motion to find ways to manage: locking some washrooms, doors to be left open, cameras in hallways, additional hall monitor, non-gender-based washroom, curriculum, posters in stalls,
- Overcrowding doesn't help

Regarding switch/hybrid/hub

- benefits of learning in-person far outweighs the virtual
- 74 students currently learning virtually
- Specialized schools (including french immersion/extended french) will try to create hubs

VICE PRINCIPAL UPDATE: Ms. Bediako

Regarding racist comments on rci.confessions

- Want reality to be impressed on the students
- Liking this page/comments = you're just as guilty.

- Criminal
- Need to know that we're serious
- Concentrating amongst the grade 10's
- **Comment (Nadia):** can these accounts be reported? **Ms. Bediako:** yes, can be shut down.
- Students posting untrue things about other students and spreading rumours. Innocent people are getting targeted.
- Huge concerns this will escalate into an altercation and someone will be injured.
- Huge impact on mental health and well being.
- Toronto police do not have a lot of resources for this but lucky they had some resources to go to some of the students' homes who RCI believes may know who is responsible or who may be involved.

Regarding Vaping

- RCI hands are tied. Staff are not allowed to go into the washrooms and students call them on it. Staff are at a disadvantage and have made it clear to higher ups that they are not helping making the school a safer space with some of the restrictions.

Regarding opportunities for improving social interactions and student engagement

- Have had quite a few senior students step up with great ideas. (e.g. Guest speakers)
- Acknowledge that students need more opportunities for positive interaction. They don't know each other. That is exactly what's fueling the behaviour.
- Roadblock: Every week there's a new guideline and RCI are at the mercy of the guidelines. That's what's holding them back.
- BUT! Still trying to be positive and hoping not to see things as a roadblock but to pivot. (e.g. meet in smaller numbers to allow for student ideas to be brought to light)
- Hoping that student engagement piece is something that RCI can continue to work hard on and focus on.
- **Maria:** Maybe we can set up a "Big Brother/Big Sister" system - pair students to be accountable for each other and stick with each other as we are missing the leadership. **Lucie:** Will bring up with staff. This may be hard with senior students because they may not have the time and it's hard with all protocols. Will ask students what they would like to see but we are limited.

STAFF REPORT: Mr. Colbert

- Staff are really tired too. Some teachers dejected, disheartened. Feel there's been fundamental changes to students during covid and apparent upon coming back.
- Haven't had the same opportunities and incentives for students to act as leaders (e.g. muskoka woods). Doing more vicious and destructive things.
- Teachers role as authority figures have become lessened.
- Feel stretched thin. Can't wait to get back to semestering (75 minute/4 classes per day)
- Grade 9 curriculum set up but implementation is a challenge.
- Extracurriculars have no direction from above
 - OFFSA not happening (TDSB has decided not to participate) so worried that students will go to different school boards. What's a school without extra curricular and clubs?
 - Hard time having teams playing each other. Hard logistically: hard to set up, no one wants to host, hard to find refs.
 - Hopefully with things coming back problems with students will diminish but it is a real challenge.
- **EQAO:** change of dates (Jan 13/14: week 1, Jan 20/21: week 2). Gr 9 - online completely but must be completed at school in the library. Can't use the classrooms so need to figure out what to do with classes that use the library during those times. Format: two 1-hour sessions. differentiated by skills level.
- **Question (Maria Skinner):** How can we as parents help? With vaping: you want to educate them more then

punish them. Calling police is the right thing to do but let's help them make the right decisions. Is there a really good speaker that we can help you with. Do you need help with sport teams? Please let us know. **Mr. Colbert:** One of the biggest complaints amongst teachers - hybrid teaching. Talk to the highest powers to be. A lot of things are totally out of our control. **Marie Cook:** can we as a school council write to Dan McLean and write a letter on behalf (e.g. hybrid). **Lucie:** spoke to Dan about hybrid. He and other trustees have heard about the challenges. **Mr. Colbert:** they heard our concerns (en masse) but they aren't creating a centralized virtual school, but this is what we truly need. **Lucie:** there could be a hub

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- \$611.43 (down \$1.95 fee for not maintaining \$5000+ balance)
- Will receive Flipgive money <\$100 to be deposited into the account
- **Should we change bank accounts?** Manisha makes move to park for next meeting 2nd: Caroline

CHAIR REPORT:

- **Email Address Update:** Still can't get access to our student council tdsb email account. John Manolo said Lucie needs to provide us with TDSB login ID: (same as employee number with P00000xxxx - there are exactly nine digits after the P in the User ID) and temporary password. Have decided to stick with our current gmail address for now. Lucie to see if she can set up ONLY if there is time. This is not a priority.
- **School Statement of Needs:** Caroline to provide Lucie with a finalized draft to send to parents and Trustee Dan McLean to review the order of the statement of needs before the next meeting. We will have a vote at the next meeting to approve and submit to Superintendent Lorraine Linton for comments and approval.
- **PRO Grant:** Caroline has completed and submitted. Have requested funding to cover the workshop(s) that RCI is planning on inviting motivational speaker, Duane Gibson to speak to the school community on issues relating to inequality and racism.
- **Social Media:** Instagram (@rci.schoolcouncil) and Facebook account (Richview Parent Council) will be updated frequently to reflect current communications.
- **By-law update:** New template still not made available. Maria to update once available. Will continue to use existing one in the meanwhile. Draft version will be available hopefully for the January meeting for council to approve in the February meeting. Vote on bylaws January 2022.
- **Direct Ask Fundraiser:** tabled for next meeting
- **Parent Social:** tabled for next meeting

FUNDRAISING REPORT: Vanessa Keall-Vejar (provided by email)

- **Bradford (Poinsettias):**
 - Delivery Date: December 10th, 2021. Will arrive early to sort and will be at school to handout poinsettias from 1pm - 6pm.
 - Net Profit: \$716.00 (yay!)
- **Flipgive:** will be receiving a cheque shortly.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday January 20th @ 7:00pm

TOPIC OF DISCUSSIONS TABLED FOR NEXT MEETING:

- **Direct Ast Fundraiser:** shall we have one and if so, what initiative should we support?
- **Bank Accounts:** should we stay or should we switch
- **Parent Social:** Spring 2022 / Fall 2022

Meeting adjourned.