

RICHVIEW COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 18, 2024 @ 7:00pm

ATTENDEES:

RCI Staff:	Lucie Kletke (Principal), Michael Colbert (Math)
RCI Students:	Alex Picket (Student Council)
Council Members in Attendance:	Caroline Cho, Maria Skinner, Krista Vanderwel, Noel Morgan, Lucia Stanizzo, Kathy DaSilva, Marie Johnson, Karin Rosenberg-Miskovsky, Sarah Ali, Dima Al Daghestani, Julie O'Toole, Scott Picket
Others in Attendance:	Online: Ryan Van Poucke, Kelly Brown, Cherie, Maryam, Monica
Council Members not in Attendance	Nadia Frost, Claudia Esposito, Andrea Giamou

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE: Lucie Kletke (these notes were provided by Lucie Kletke)

Happy New Year everyone.

I would like to thank our community for all your help during the fundraising events in December:

- Hospital for Sick Kids
- Braeburn Toy Drive
- Winter Clothing Drive

Our teachers and support staff are working so hard to support our students through Culminating Assignments and Exams.

Information was emailed to you regarding the exam schedule and expectations.

Students should not miss culminating activities or exams except for serious extenuating circumstances. We need for them to focus on their major tasks. Marks will be impacted by submitting assignments late.

Grade 9 Math classes in SEM 1 are writing EQAO in the library

FEBRUARY is an important month:

- Black History School Assembly - we hired a Dance Instructor to help the students with Step Dancing

- PREPARATIONS FOR 2024 – 2025 Course Selection Course Fair
- My Blueprint – February 5th – 23rd
- NEW COURSES:
- The Grade 9 Geography class is now destreamed (like Math, Science, English)
- Grade 9 BTT becomes BEM1O1
- Grade 10 BBI becomes BEP2O1
- NEW Grade 9 Tech offering: Technology and the Skilled Trades (TAS1O1)
- Gr. 11 English becomes NBE3U1 – English – Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Metis and Inuit Voices
- Gr 10 Careers Curriculum updated to include Mental Health Literacy
- [Exploring Canadian Geography, Grade 9, De-streamed \(CGC1W\)](#)
- [Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset, Grade 9, Open \(BEM1O\)](#)
- [Launching and Leading a Business, Grade 10, Open \(BEP2O\)](#)
- [Technology and the Skilled Trades, Grade 9, Open \(TAS1O\)](#)
- [Technology and the Skilled Trades, Grade 10, Open \(TAS2O\)](#)
- [Career Studies, Grade 10, Open \(GLC2O\)](#)
- [English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices, Grade 11, \(NBE3\)](#)

NEW Tech courses from the Ministry of Education

We need to update the labs/equipment to support new courses.

Muskoka Woods – at the end of February/early March

-Training for leaders – February 9th

FUNDRAISING – Crooked Cue/Silent Auction/Donor Gifts (October 2023)

- Food & Nutrition Class – 4 ovens (anonymous donor \$6,000.00)
- Muskoka Woods support (same anonymous donor \$6,000.00)
- Physical Education – new equipment for the gym/school-wide use (5,000.00)
- Math – ordered new equipment to enhance teaching (over \$10,000.00)

NOTE: In 2022, Golf Canada gave RCI a \$25,000.00 donation which we used to offset the \$30,000.00 reduction in our school budget. These funds helped with the Muskoka Woods excursion in 2023 (to cover Supply Teachers). They did not cover the construction for the new parking lot; this was paid for by TDSB.

Also discussed during the PRINCIPAL'S Update:

- A question was asked about TDSB trustees recently voting to develop a policy to limit the use of cell phones in class
 - No specific outcomes as of yet
 - Hard for staff to compete with cell phones, they are out in every class
- Lucie confirmed that if a student does not have an exam on a day during exam week, the student does not have school that day
 - The exam schedule is included in the Principal's Update
- Lucie confirmed that January 31st is a half day
 - Students will receive their final marks from the first semester, should come to school on the 31st even if they have no exams
- Schedules for second semester should be out within a week
- Lucie is very grateful for the help of volunteers this year
- For example, volunteers are already compiling the results of today's literacy test
- A new male hall monitor has just started, 0.5 time allocated to Richview CI
 - Very helpful when checking on the boy's washrooms

STAFF UPDATE: Michael Colbert (Math)

- Staff says they are exhausted, overworked
- This semester was the first time he was able cover the entire grade 9 math curriculum
- EQAO testing taking place today and tomorrow for Grade 9 students
 - It now comprises 10% of the student's final English mark
 - Michael is concerned that students are not sufficiently focused when taking the EQAO
 - Could be taking the test on a computer makes a student less focused, or perhaps it is the multiple choice format
- He wishes the students good luck on their exams and summatives
 - The load from exams and summatives is lighter for lower grades when compared to the much heavier load for higher grades
- Higher grade students could be a positive influence for lower grades
- Bathrooms are a hang-out spot
- Some of the more senior students are missing period one, they should take things more seriously
- Waterloo math contests for Grades 9-11 are Wednesday February 28th, during Muskoka Woods
 - Considering how best to address for students away at Muskoka Woods

- Some students also wrote a math contest during the first semester, Richview CI has received the results and certificates are being prepared for the students who wrote.
- Preparing for an indoor track meet on March 1st, outdoor track and field begins in April

CHAIR'S REPORT: Maria Skinner and Caroline Cho

- Krista agreed to lead the Staff Appreciation breakfast
 - Will reach out to Lucie to set a date, likely a late start Wednesday, possibly in April
- Graduation for the Grade 12s will be held June 27th at the Woodbine Banquet and Convention Hall
 - Same venue as last year
 - Prior to the event Council helps compile and hand out gowns and sashes
 - At the event volunteers hands out programs, provide snacks, etc
 - Maria agreed to lead the Council's graduation activities
 - Krista, Noel and others will help
- School Council has a SQUARE reader, which enables the Council to accept payments at fundraising events via credit card and other forms of electronic payment
 - Have been issues in the past with properly using the reader, making it more difficult to reconcile dollar figures
 - For now Ryan will keep the SQUARE reader until she has been able to give Kathy a tutorial
 - Kathy also suggested a tutorial each school year for anyone who will be using the SQUARE reader
- Council gave its Richview CI Decals to the Small Business Club to sell at Grade 8 night & market
- The Council discussed the possibility of a fundraiser for the remaining Phys Ed ask from the November Council meeting, *exact numbers updated following the meeting*
 - By way of background, at the November Council meeting:
 - \$15,000 of the funds raised from the Social were allocated by Council
 - Lucie provided two potential wishlists, from the Math and the Physical Education Departments
 - The ask from Math totaled \$10,123, the ask from Phys Ed totaled \$12,593.50
 - After some discussion, Council allocated \$10,123 to the Math Department, the remaining \$4,877 was provided to the Physical Education department
 - For a total allocated of \$15,000

- The allocation to Phys Ed was \$7,716.50 short of their wishlist cost
- See the table below for a summary of how the \$15,000 was allocated

	Funds Allocated from the Social	Wishlist Cost	Shortfall
Math Department	\$10,123.00	\$10,123.00	None
Physical Education Department	\$4,877.00	\$12,593.50	\$7,716.50
Total	\$15,000.00		

- Council currently has \$4,024.17 in its account
- Some of this amount is earmarked for other purposes
 - The Poinsettia drive raised \$1,035, this is earmarked for Graduation
 - Council would also want to carry \$500 over to the next school year
- This leaves \$2,489.17 in the account that could be provided to Phys Ed
 - If the remaining \$2,489.17 was provided to Phys Ed this would reduce the shortfall to \$5,227.33
- Council discussed how best to raise additional funds for Phys Ed
 - Dima will look into a potential Spring Flower Fundraiser ie planters
 - Krista will send a potential contact to Dima
- Ryan mentioned that Big Yellow Bag garden soil also has a school fundraising program
- Noel suggested selling tickets to a Lobster Roast
 - He highlighted that food-oriented events tend to bring people together
- Lucia suggested doing a direct ask to the community
 - After the asks associated with the Social, there was a reluctance to do another direct ask
- Marie said we should share more broadly how the money raised from the Social was spent, not just in the Council minutes
 - She would like to ensure that we are clear about how the money raised has been spent thus far
 - Ryan could post to social media
- Ryan pointed out that Mr Ragno has contacts/corporate donors who match the SickKids donation drive
 - For example, Lucie mentioned they do reach out to corporate donors for yearbooks
- Michael suggested a soccer fundraising event
 - In the spring, at Richview CI when playing Etobicoke CI

- Krista expressed an interest in running the Concessions Stand during this and possibly other spring sporting events at Richview CI
 - Potential spring fundraiser will be left with Dima
 - perhaps will roll over a shortfall for next year
 - or accept that we do not have enough funds to fulfill all of the ask from the Physical Education department
 - Worth noting that there will be more asks from various departments in the future
- Karin proposed setting criteria for prioritizing requests from the school going forward
 - Such as the requests from the Math and Physical Education departments above
 - For example, perhaps one criteria could be related to how many students would benefit, the more the better
 - At this time the Council by-laws are silent on this subject
 - The TDSB guidelines do provide some guidance on how funds raised by school councils may be used, for example complementing the budget
 - There is also a list of what these funds cannot be used for
 - Karin is looking for a way to prioritize requests, not necessarily to constrain how funds raised can or cannot be used
 - Council currently assumes it has been prioritized by the school before Council receives the request

Also discussed during the Chair's Report

- Caroline asked what happened to items not bid on at the Social
 - Three items are left over, currently in Marie's basement
 - Caroline suggested they be donated for school clubs for auctioning, Marie was supportive
- A question asked about improving the school's sports field and track
 - Back in 2016 an initiative set out to raise \$5 million for the sports field, thus far \$0 has been raised
 - Etobicoke CI got a new field due to one large donor and their donation of \$2 million
 - Lucia has talked to the school councillor, could try to get funds from the province's infrastructure minister
 - We would need to put pressure on the school trustee to go to the province to fund
 - TDSB no longer permits school fields to be rented out
 - Noel mentioned the possibility of reaching out to corporations such as MLSE to help fund, but this would need sufficient support from the community

- Kathy pointed out how active the school is for athletics
- If we were to reach out to corporations we would also need to show that we had been raising money
- Lucie highlighted that the school has other capital requirements
 - For example, when it rains water comes into the school offices
- Given that raising funds to improve the sport field would likely be a multi-year endeavour, Karin said that if Council began raising funds for the sports field a separate capital account could be set up so the money raised could not then be repurposed in later years by subsequent student councils

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE: Alex Picket

- Busy time for students due to pending summative and exam season
 - One student council meeting in January thus far
- December Richview Merch Sale was very successful
 - best seller was the white quarter-zip top
- Also held the Braeburn Toy Drive
 - Toys were happily received by children in the Braeburn community
 - Late donations were provided to the fire station neighbouring Richview CI

Also discussed during the Student Council Update:

- Caroline heard the Business Club is doing a second Arts & Craft sale , the first was quite successful
- A question was asked if there were plans for a semi-formal
 - Not yet decided, student body would very much like one

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy DaSilva

- A new account was opened at TD in November
 - the Council's funds have been moved to TD
 - all transactions now going into the new account
 - the monthly fee for the TD account is \$4.95, much better than at Alterna
- Instructions have been provided to Alterna to close our previous account
 - awaiting a letter from Alterna to confirm the account's closure
- The current balance at TD is \$4,024.17
- When we opened the previous account, the associated financial institution had been PACE Credit Union
 - When PACE went under, Alterna acquired the majority of PACE's assets

- When the PACE account was opened the Council was required to put \$200 into an investment, Council is not sure where this investment is now
- Karin suggested filing a claim with the CDIC (Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation)

GENDER EQUITY in the SPORT PROGRAM: Kelly Brown

- Kelly raised a concern about gender equity across sports teams at Richview CI
- For example:
 - This is no indoor soccer for girls, just for boys
 - While there was a girl football player this past season, football is not a gender equitable sport
- Kelly would like the school to create a list of all the sports teams for the year that are sanctioned through TDSB competitions, and indicate which have resources (budget and a coach), and which do not
 - And then have a conversation at Council to review any gaps and discuss with the school what actions we can take to ensure better equity
- Lucie highlighted that coaching is voluntary for all staff members, we rely on volunteers to coach sports teams
 - Kathy said that given coaching is voluntary, it could be tough to ensure equity across all sports
- Michael strongly agreed that we need to promote girl's sports more
 - 1/3 of staff is new to the school, makes it harder to find volunteers

Also discussed during the Gender Equity in Sports item:

- Dima said that there were no tryouts this year for indoor soccer
 - Very frustrating for students who would like to potentially compete on these teams
- Lucie checked after the meeting, the Physical Education department held two tryouts for indoor soccer

NEXT MEETING:

- Thursday February 22nd at 7:00pm

MEETING ADJOURNED @ 8:52pm