

RICHVIEW COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2023 @ 7:00pm

ATTENDEES:

RCI Staff:	Lucie Kletke (Principal), Shamil Khadaroo (Vice-Principal), Vaneeta Dabas (Vice-Principal)
RCI Students:	Alex Picket (Student Council)
Council Members:	Caroline Cho, Maria Skinner, Sarah Ali, Nadia Frost, Kathy DaSilva, Dima Al Daghestani, Claudia Esposito, Andrea Giamou, Marie Johnson, Noel Morgan, Julie O’Toole, Krista Vanderwel, Scott Picket
Others:	In Library: Marie Cook, Dave Lyle, Reema Ramdeen, Monica Spence Lyle Online: Aran Kavanaugh, Lisa McAvoy, Jane Thompson, Debbi S, Lucia Stanizzo, Rebecca Christie

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE: Alex Picket

- Student Council is currently focused on near term activities
- Hosting a movie night for Halloween, conducting a poll for favourite Disney channel reruns
- Hoping to sell school spirit merchandise earlier this year than in previous years, maybe January or February
- Also planning on a fun day or semi-formal near the end of the year
- The question was asked whether for next year the student council would consider selling spirit merchandise for the beginning of the year, ie preorder this school year for next year
- A number of parents thought it would be a good idea, Alex will take it back to the Student Council

INNOVATION GRANT PROPOSAL: Noel Morgan and Claudia Esposito

- The Anti-Oppression Parent and Caregiver Committee is proposing to apply for an Innovation Grant to support a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion potluck event
- The working title of the event is ‘Halting Hate, Resisting Racism and Increasing Inclusion: Building Better Communities of Care Through Our Schools’
- The proposed date of the potluck event is November 23rd
- The grant proposal is due October 31st

- Two proposed facilitators:
 - Aasiyah Kahn is Director of Education Programs at National Council of Canadian Muslims
 - Anthony Morgan is Senior Strategic Advisor, Intersectional Social Justice for the City of Toronto
- Because the speakers will receive a fee for speaking and because Anthony Morgan is Noel Morgan's son, this was deemed a conflict of interest for Noel and Noel was recused from the council vote on the subject
- The Anti-Oppression Parent and Caregiver Committee is also considering additional events, perhaps concerning mental health or indigenous reconciliation
- A question was asked about the focus of the event given that other groups are also the target of hate and/or racism, such as antisemitism
- Given the outcome of the grant proposal will not be known for a few months, it was recommended that the proposed date be moved to the New Year in order to confirm the fund's available for the event
- Contingent on sufficient grant funds being available for the event, Nadia Frost moved that the council proceed with the proposed event, Kathy DaSilva seconded, there were no nays or abstentions

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP: Maria Skinner and Caroline Cho

- Currently the School Council has 14 voting members, the current by-laws permit a maximum of 15
- At least two additional individuals would like to join
- It was agreed that this level of engagement was an excellent outcome
- Andrea Giamou moved that Lucia Stanizzo be added to the council, Caroline Cho seconded, there were no nays or absentions
- It is the council's intent to update the by-laws at the next meeting to allow for additional members. Council will need to vote on this By-Law change to have 19 Council Members, instead of 15. Council will vote at the November meeting
- We deferred a few items from the agenda to the next meeting: Other Committees – Teacher Appreciation, Graduation need Leads

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

Welcome everyone.

I would really like to acknowledge and thank Marie Johnson for the incredible work that she did for the fundraiser at the Crooked Cue and the silent auction. Thank you to her team:

Rebecca Christie, Caroline Cho, Noel Morgan, and Ryan Van Poucke. It was a fantastic event; thank you to all our School Council members and everyone who participated and supported the fundraiser.

I would also like to thank our donors (individuals and companies) for their incredible generosity.

Introduce – new VP – Shamil Khadaroo (students A – L)

Vaneeta Dabas (students M – Z)

School Improvement: To continue to enhance student engagement and a sense of belonging in the school, which will impact achievement, equity, and wellness.

Aim:

Implement Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy (CRRP), Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Differentiated Instruction and Assessment practices within classes.

Each department is focusing on specific goals and instructional strategies within these areas.

Actions:

Build capacity with Assistant Curriculum Leaders and P/VP teams – Leadership as a change process

Prof Learning Plan for the whole staff at PLCs and Staff Meetings

This year we added two new ACL positions for Student Success (to support our student needs)

Supports from all teachers; VPs addressing students who need more supports as well

Extra support for students – classroom teachers (lunch or after school), a more formal peer tutoring program (Ms. Dabas)

Continuing Education literacy and numeracy programs for Grades 9 and 10

We also have a myriad of extra curricular activities (sports/clubs) that engage students.

Achievement:

Parents/Guardians were informed by teachers if their child is having academic or attendance issues.

Mr. Khadaroo is getting ready for mid-term reports and Parent/Teacher Interviews (Nov. 16th)

Safety Protocols:

We had one fire drill and one lockdown drill. We want to be ready for any potential threat to safety.

Evacuation sites if needed:

- **St. George's Junior School**
- **Humber Valley Village**
- **Richview Public Library**
- **Martingrove CI**

BUDGET:

Our school budget for this year is \$230,043.00 (a reduction of \$35,000.00 in the past two years).

A substantial part of our budget goes towards Occasional Teacher costs for field trips, sports games, professional learning, etc.

GUIDANCE:

We had fantastic feedback re: Post-Secondary Fair. The guidance counselors will now visit the Grade 12 classes to prepare students for the application process for college/university.

Some serious issues we are dealing with:

- 1. Parking lot – laneway near Islington Avenue (teacher incident). Dangerous situation Students driving extremely fast, too much congestion at @3:00 – 3:30 pm**
- 2. Complaints from the Richview Plaza**
- 3. VAPING – our In the Driver's seat club with Ms. Markakos and Mr. Ragno are working on enhancing the effects of vaping, etc. Toronto Public Health is supporting as well as our Social Worker would like to support.**

Also discussed during PRINCIPAL'S Update:

- **A question was asked about whether vandalism in the school bathrooms was still an issue**
- **Lucie said that it was, but thus far not as severe as last year**
- **Some plumbing issues may have been why one bathroom was closed for a while**
- **A question was asked about when there will be a permanent teacher for Grade 9 English and Math**

- Lucie responded that staffing is always a challenge, the permanent teacher is expected to return November 10th
- Lucie added that it has been a challenge finding French teachers
- The question was asked as to what the parent and guardian community could do to support the school's efforts with respect to staffing
- Lucie said that a parent or guardian could speak to a superintendent or trustee
- Lisa McAvoy asked why the list of occasional teachers has changed
- Lucie had not heard of the list changing
- Vaneeta added that there is no cap on the number of names on the secondary school occasional list, a teacher may need to be available to work a certain a number of days to stay on the list
- Lucie added that some secondary school teachers have been on the occasional list for 20 years, the secondary list is managed differently than the elementary occasional teacher list
- Kathy said that a lot of new teachers start by supplying
- Lucie added that many have been hired into permanent positions due to mental leaves or retirements on the part of permanent teachers

CHAIR'S REPORT: Maria Skinner and Caroline Cho

- Sarah Ali agreed to be the council's Parent Involvement Advisory Council (PIAC) representative
- The School Council had a presence at the school's Curriculum night, selling decals and compiling a small list of volunteers
- Sarah has proposed hosting a Meet & Greet one morning during the school week on a regular basis
 - The intent would be to help increase parent and guardian engagement
 - The budget should not be too much ie coffee, so the funds could come out of the \$1,500 the council receives annually for parental engagement
 - Rebecca Christie and Dima Al Daghtani offered to help
- The students are interested in having a semi-formal, the School Council is supportive
 - This raises the question of which grades can attend
 - To be determined, but because the Grade 12's have a prom and the Grade 9s have Muskoka Woods, the semi-formal may be for Grades 10 and 11
 - security will need to be arranged, such as what was done for Friday Night Lights

RICHVIEW SOCIAL UPDATE: Marie Johnson

- The Social has raised \$29,860 net of costs, well through Marie's expectations
- Marie and the Council are very appreciative of the large donations and the generosity of the parents and the community
- Marie thanked Rebecca Christie, Noel Morgan, Ryan Van Poucke and Caroline Cho in particular for their tireless efforts
- The cost of the Crooked Cue and other reimbursements was \$3,492.41
- A few other numbers include:
 - 62 tickets were sold via SchoolCashOnline
 - 55-60 people attended the event at the Crooked Cue
 - 93 people participated in the online auction of which 70 people had winning bids
 - There were 76 items posted online of which 3 items didn't sell, there were 318 bids
- Marie shared that the online auction was more effective than trying to hold an auction at the Social itself
- Noel shared that it would have been nice to see more diversity at the Social
- Marie asked that there be better clarity at SchoolCashOnline about when making a donation to the Social versus making a donation to the school's nutrition program
 - perhaps via a separate drop down menu for the School Council Social
- Lucie said that the school's nutrition program does not receive donations via SchoolCashOnline

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nadia Frost, Kathy DaSilva

- Once the cheques received as of today's meeting are deposited, the balance in the Council's account will be \$7,683.54
- Maria Skinner added that funds received from SchoolCashOnline will go directly to a TDSB account, which is why the Council's balance does not reflect the full amount raised at the Social
- Our financial institution (Alterna, formerly Pace Credit Union) has recently raised its banking fees to approximately \$15 per month
- The Treasury team is looking into alternatives, for example, TD charges approximately \$5 a month
- Kathy moved that we move now to TD, Caroline seconded the motion, there were no nays or abstentions
- Sarah Ali shared that this is happening elsewhere and TDSB is also looking into other providers

CONCESSIONS UPDATE: Krista Vandelwel, Kathy DaSilva

- The Council has run a 'Concessions Booth' at the two home football games this season
- Sales have been brisk, with \$235 in cash raised at the most recent game

POINSETTIAS FUNDRAISER

- Dima Al Daghestani and Marie Johnson are overseeing the Poinsettia Fundraiser
- Council will be selling Poinsettias. Funds traditionally go to Richview Grad/Commencement. Last year we fundraised approximately \$1200

EARNING A GRADE 12 ENGLISH CREDIT WHILE STUDYING ABROAD: Aran Kavanaugh

- A Richview parent, Aran Kavanaugh, shared some details about how her son earned his Grade 12 English Credit while in Italy this past summer. Aran says the course was safe, well-run and rigorous. It is run by a Canadian Italian
- More information may be found here: [Roman Holiday Summer Studies](#)
- Note this is not a school or TDSB sanctioned event

NEXT MEETING:

- Thursday November 23rd at 7:00pm

MEETING ADJOURNED @ 8:51pm