

RAPT MEETING MINUTES - April 29, 2024

Program	Rippleton Association of Parents and Teachers (School Advisory Council)
Purpose	Fourth Annual Meeting of 2023/2024 School Year
Meeting Date	April 29th, 2024
Meeting Time	Start time: 6:30 pm and meeting adjourned at 7:41pm
Meeting Location	Rippleton Public School - School Library 2nd Floor
Meeting Facilitators	Dimitra Skandalis
RAPT 2023/2024 Council Attendees	Dimitra Skandalis, Chair Shabnam Shokoufi, Co-Treasurer Whitney Wong, Co-Treasurer Paris Asghari, Secretary Alice Zhang, Executive Member Irshad Mankrod, Executive Member Mary Lambiris, Executive Member School Staff: Manny da Luz, Principal Ms. Meijer Pela Gardiner
Minutes Prepared by:	Paris Asghari

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions - Dimitra
2. Principal's Report - Manny da Luz
3. Treasurer's Report - Whitney and Shabnam
4. RAPT Report - Dimitra
5. Grade 5 Report - Mary
6. Other Business/Questions

1. Welcome and Introductions

1. Motion to approve February 28th minutes - Meeting minutes approved unanimously

2. Principal's Report

1. Recent and upcoming school activities:

Mr da Luz began by discussing what has been circulating recently in the news. The use of cell phones and vapes during school is an on going concern and they have recently been banned. From kindergarten to Grade 6 phones are not allowed in the classroom setting.

Going into next year, the big news from TDSB is that there is a 26.5 million dollar deficit and they have been making cuts which will inevitably impact our school. For example, this year we have 6 lunchroom supervisors which will be reduced to 5 next year. Our special needs assistant will go down to 0.5 staff, compared to 1.5 this year. Special needs assistant staff are so important in helping our schools operate, they help us as support in school but also they help with other duties such as bus duties. Unfortunately we also learned that our ASD program at the school will be moving to Cedarvale next year.

Mr da Luz informed the attendees that the most important thing is that we try to do what is best for our kids regardless of what's coming down from up top.

Our use of the bus services have increased over the years. We have more and more students utilizing this services, specifically the 885 and 884 routes. The 884 route is coming in from Mount Pleasant and Eglinton and we see increased use of this service as the developments in that area are almost done and ready to be inhabited. We will expect anywhere between 10-15 students coming to Rippleton from that area. The two other areas that we bus in students are Don Mills and Eglinton and Leslie and Eglinton. They are trying to keep the cohorts of communities together going into schools.

Facilities:

We are required to have 6 fire drills a year. We also had an accidental fire drill a couple of weeks ago, but the staff and fire department were very impressed with how great the students did.

We are also required to have 2 lockdowns every school year. There is one left for the spring semester. This can be intimidating for some kids but overall its a positive experience.

2. Library leaders, art club, sports:

Track and field day is this Friday.

Community clean up was done last Monday for Earth Day.

3. Swim to survive:

We were lucky enough to be selected for this program this year. Many families don't have the opportunity to enrol in swimming lessons and this is a great way to teach students about water safety.

We have two groups going in grades 4 and 5. They will go three times and there will be classwork included as well.

4. School Grounds:

Unfortunately Winter Carnival was cancelled due to the lack of snow this year.

There were some work order issues due to lack of facility workers which delayed some repairs that were needed. We recently had a carpenter come in to do some work and the card scan system is now functional. Unfortunately the outdoor chalkboard came down last week, we will be looking to get something better for outdoor learning.

The playground on the kindergarten side will be redone in the near future. Arborists have been contacted and we are excited to remodel the play area for the younger kids.

5. Children's Mental Health Week:

May 6-10th - there will be several activities for students to take part in.

June 14th is the schedule date for Jump Rope for Heart

6. EQAO:

Week of may 21-24th - Please have parents try to avoid any appointments during this week for their children

7. Important Dates:

May 24th BBQ Fun Fair

May 30th Spring Concert

June 7th PA Day

June 13th Kindergarten open house (after school)

June 20th Graduation

June 21 Free Pizza Slice! We won a free pizza day for the entire school through the Lunch Box program! On June 21, each student will receive 1 free slice of pizza.

June 28th is the last day of school

8. Staff allocation and proposed school models:

(A spreadsheet was provided with staffing allocation for the following year). Mr da Luz informed that if our student numbers increase, the TDSB will reallocate teachers accordingly. FDK will have 2 full classes and 1 class of 15. Between grades 1 to 3 we will have 6 classes (6 homeroom teachers). We will be getting an extra 0.5 ESL resource for a total of 1 (this year we had 0.5) which means we will be getting more students coming from all over the world with English as a second language. We will also have 1 special education teacher.

All together, we will have 16.5 positions (teachers), knowing this, we will need to have 3 kindergarten classes, of which 2 will have ECE's.

In primary classrooms, 20 is the cap for student numbers per classroom.

Mr da Luz provided the attendees with examples of different models in which the classes could be potentially be divided:

Proposed Classroom Model 2024/2025
K1
K2
K3 (no ECE)
1A
1B
1/2
2
2/3
3
3/4
4/5a
4/5b
Special Education - Resource
Music and Movement
Library/STEAM
Health and Physical Education
French and ESL

If we can provide opportunities to learn in different ways, we are more likely to get the students to love learning. We are happy to be keeping music and ESL.

STEAM was started in 2021 and stands for science, tech, engineering, arts and music. This is something that you embed into everything you do as an educator. At Rippleton, our teacher-librarian dedicates time for STEAM in programming. Everyone is involved from the kids in kindergarten to grade 5.

Mr da Luz shared that parents can talk to their kid's teachers if they have any questions or concerns regarding next year's classes. If the parents feel that there is more that needs to be shared, they can communicate with Mr da Luz prior to May 17th.

Starting on May 7th, teacher vacancy rounds will begin. This is where contract teachers can apply for teaching jobs that may be available at other schools. These jobs are based on retirements and teacher taking leaves etc. We won't know which teachers are coming back/leaving etc. until the vacancy rounds are completed. Teacher preferences have been submitted but this is all tentative based on what makes sense for the school/numbers. It is very important for for students to be here when school starts in September to be considered as a "bum in the seat" as this will affect the final numbers and how the classes are allocated.

3. Treasurer's Report

Whitney informed the attendees that we are doing well this year, our bank balance is approximately \$19,000 and we still have a cheque for \$22,000 from school cash online and some from the grade 5 fundraising. Pizza lunch is always the most successful , we are making about \$17,000 from just from pizza lunch which is great! This will bring the total to around \$40,000. We have committed to purchasing new jerseys and U tables for the school, we are also excited about the Fun Fair and some of the money will go into helping with those costs. .

Any update on jerseys? None, as per Mr da Luz.

Lunch box orders - we don't make much from these, approximately 50c per order. Each Monday/Tuesday we get about 50 orders. It is worth continuing as we were expecting less and the orders are steady every week. There are more vendors that can be used such as pizza but we already have pizza days and Mr Greek was also an option, but we didn't want to make things too complicated.

4. RAPT Report

BBQ Funfair Planning

As mentioned, we have our BBQ funfair happening on May 24th, the last one the school did was in 2019. This year we are joining Roadsters for a combined BBQ. The event will take place on Friday May 24th, from 5-8pm. We will need volunteers from 4-5pm for outside set up. Hart Entertainment has been booked and they will be supplying inflatables, games, cotton candy machine etc. We will also have an ice cream truck coming.

Fire It Up will be preparing the burgers for the event (will have beef, veggie, gluten free option) - need to decide what to charge. Still trying to come up with the pricing. We won't be making money off the food. The regular burger 7.95+HST for burger, water and chips. Gluten free option will be a chicken breast.

For students they can pay through school cash online and the Roadsters will collect cash directly from the parents. Emails will go out to families by Friday. Dimitra will print out flyers to put in backpacks and post in the school.

In the past we have asked for silent auction items, anything from gift baskets, Blue Jays tickets, Science Centre tickets, different experiences, spa treatments, restaurant gift cards, signed jerseys etc. We also have a letter to give to local businesses to help sponsor the BBQ - any amount is helpful. We are going to need help from as many people as we can - parents, grandparents, teens looking for volunteer hours etc.

We would also like to ask classes to participate in making baskets that will be auctioned off. Roadsters will also join as well. Each class will have their own theme for each basket. That email will also be sent out this week.

T-shirt and Baseball cap spirit wear will also be sold at the BBQ.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

After the BBQ and Spring concert we will hold the annual staff appreciation luncheon The scheduled date will be June 6th (Thursday). We will send out more information after the BBQ.

Pizza days May 10th, and May 24th pizza lunch moved to 31st. Grade 5s pizza lunch will be switched to maybe the Thursday 9th.

5. Mary's Grade 5 Grad Representative

Grade 5 grad updates - Friday May 10th, they are going on the 1 day Toronto trip. This trip was \$140+HST per child but with fundraising we were able to raise half the amount and so the kids are paying \$80+HST for the trip. School bus arrives at 9:20am, they will go to the Science Centre, lunch at The Spaghetti Factory, back on the bus then to the CN Tower and Ripley's Aquarium. The students will arrive back at the school at 5:30pm. The exciting thing about it is that there are many kids that have't had a chance to go to these places at all, so it will be such a wonderful experience for them. Kids get their own t-shirts with a very nice logo on it. Will be able to wear it on the grad trip. Freezie fundraiser - date TBD. Also we will be doing another grade 5 bake sale for the Spring concert, will be asking parents to donate treats. Funds will go towards DJ, photo booth, decor and food for the trip. The kids are very excited it's a great sendoff.

The ceremony is June 20th, which will be from 4:30-5:30/6
It will be held outdoors and each family can have 4 relatives attend.

6. Questions/Comments:

Will need to have another meeting before the end of the term - TBD

A new student started in grade 5 today - will need to account for this for grad trip.

Funding for grad trip —> through school cash online. All kids will be able to attend regardless of financial situation.

Meeting *Adjourned: 7:41pm*