

RAPT MEETING MINUTES - February 28th, 2024

Program	Rippleton Association of Parents and Teachers (School Advisory Council)
Purpose	Third Meeting of 2023/2024 School Year
Meeting Date	February 28, 2024
Meeting Time	Start time: 6:30 pm and meeting adjourned at 7:24pm
Meeting Location	Virtual Meeting (Zoom)
Meeting Facilitators	Dimitra Skandalis
RAPT 2023/2024 Council Attendees	<p>Dimitra Skandalis, Co-Chair Shabnam Shokoufi, Co-Treasurer Whitney Wong, Co-Treasurer Paris Asghari, Secretary Alice Zhang, Executive Member Irshad Mankrod, Executive Member Ramisa Fariha, Executive Member Mary Lambiris, Executive Member</p> <p>School Staff: Manny da Luz, Principal Ms. Miller Ms. Meijer Ms. Saul</p>
Minutes Prepared by:	Paris Asghari
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

- A. Motion to approve Nov 27th minutes - Meeting minutes approved unanimously

2. Principal's Report

1. Kindergarten and Middle School Registration

Mr. da Luz began the discussion regarding Rippleton's incoming student registrations for next year. Thus far we have about 50 incoming JK students and the board will project at a certain number based on 50 students in process of registering. He informed us that Rippleton is considered a closed school which means that only students from our catchment area can register for the school. The exception to this is if the home school of the student does not have childcare, families may register here at the Roadsters before junior kindergarten entry, not in any other grade entry through the childcare

- 2. Middle school registration: when grade 5 students leave Rippleton and go to middle school, where they attend is based on their home address, typically it is St Andrew's, Windfield's or Don Mills middle school. If you are out of the area, the student will go on a waitlist. Currently we have 252 students at Rippleton with a similar projection for next year.

The number of teachers employed will be based on the number of students attending. Preliminary numbers will come out in March and in April they will look at school models to arrange for the following year.

3. Facility Updates

Unfortunately our 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 work on some locks and other minor overdue jobs. Happy to report that the card scan system is fully operational. 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. Process has begun, but timelines are not set yet for completion.

4. Recent and Upcoming School Activities

Lunch box programs: Grade 5 students are helping to deliver the lunches on alternating Monday and Tuesdays. The vendors are great and on time with the food delivery and the students helping are doing a wonderful job as well. We are currently averaging about 45-50 orders each time. A small donation from every sale comes back to the school.

Giving Tree: thank you to everyone who helped, and a big thank you to Irshad for connecting us with this program. It was a huge success!

Grade 5 Raffle baskets: The baskets were beautiful and a remarkable success!

Some grade 4 and 5 students have been making and selling bracelets during lunch time with all proceeds going towards the Ronald McDonald House.

Valentine's Day Dance-A-Thon: This was also a great success we had over 50 prizes that were donated by parents. Thank you to all who donated the cards and thank you to all who supported the event!

Sports: The Girl's volleyball team just concluded their tournament

The boys' basketball team will be competing tomorrow. Mr. Williams and Ms. McIntosh have been doing an excellent job coaching them.

Sports that up coming up next: all gender volleyball team.

5. Parking and traffic rules:

Unfortunately, a few cars have been blocking the school buses. This is something that we cannot allow. If a bus driver calls dispatch because they are being blocked the police will arrive and tickets will be handed out and there is nothing the school can do. We must be aware of this, please do not park in these areas. For the school parking lot, between 8:15am and 4pm we do not want any parents parking in the lot. It becomes a danger with the kids coming and going and cars driving very fast. We truly want to avoid any accidents happening. Before 8:15 and after 4pm, parents in the childcare programs can feel free to use it. Please do not park in the bus loop between 8:15-9:30am or between 3-4pm. We have more and more kids using the bussing system, so we have a lot of buses coming in and out, we need to allow them access to drop off the kids safely.

6. Speech Arts Competition

The students in grades 3-5 participated in a speech arts competition. Each class had student representatives, and over 15 students participated in the Rippleton Competition. From there the judges selected 3 students to represent our school at Denlow Public School. We came very close to the top in all three grades. Well done to all the students that participated!

We have a lot of clubs that are active in the school that we encourage students to get involved with!

7. Pink Shirt Day

We have two different pink shirt days throughout the year, today's pink day was the Canadian version. In 2005, there were two boys in Nova Scotia who had a friend that was being bullied for wearing a pink shirt. These two boys got the whole school to wear pink to support him, and so we do this Canada-wide to show empathy and support. International Day of Pink is in April which we will participate in as well.

8. Black History Month Presentation

We are so excited to celebrate Black History Month! We have a world renown steel pannist coming to the school!

9. Other:

Toronto Public Health: information released regarding measles outbreak related to travel. Further information will be shared through our school X (twitter), currently the TPH recommendation is to please update vaccines before travel.

Important dates:

March break is from the 11-15th

March 26th - Graduation Photos

Grade 5 movie night is April 5th

The school is closed for Good Friday and Easter Monday

April 8th - New PA Day - moving the Friday PA day to the Monday due to the solar eclipse

May 8th - June 12 May EQAO testing for grade 3's

May 20th Victoria Day

May 30th Music Concert - more details to come

June 6th – Rippleton Community BBQ

June 7th PA Day

June 20th Grade 5 graduation

June 28th is the last day of school.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Whitney informed us that our bank balance as of Jan 31 is about \$21,700. She also mentioned that we have another account where all the school cash online payments for pizza are deposited. This account has approximately \$22,000. The total is roughly \$43,700 and this does not include the funds raised from the Dance-A-Thon and Toonie Treat Day, which is approximately \$9000. There is about \$2000 deducted for the DJ/entertainment and other expenses (such as hot chocolate). The funds will be going towards purchasing tech items for the school and furniture such as U-tables.

Whitney also mentioned that some classes are bringing in a scientist and/or an artist to the school. Ms. Reyes has put a request in to have teachers contact her if they wish to have a scientist come to their classroom. There is a deadline for that however we aren't sure how many classrooms are participating. The kindergarten classes are having Zoo to You next week, where they bring animals to the classroom and teach them about the animals. These learning opportunities will be deducted from our account as well. Ms. Kalogris and Ms. Miller's class had an artist from the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, this has been deducted from the account already.

4. **RAPT Report**

A discussion was led by Dimitra. Dimitra informed everyone that we have had 2 Toonie Treat Days since our last meeting and usually we obtain about \$300 profit per day. In the Spring, the graduating class will take over with their Freezie fundraisers.

The Valentine's Day fundraiser was a huge success! The school had Interactive Entertainment come (a DJ and dancer) and all the students including the Roadsters were able to participate. The pledge forms went well, we were happy to exceed our goal of \$5000 and we raised \$6000. Expenses were about \$1000, and we also have to factor in the cost of the prizes for the winners (ice cream day)

The families were given approximately 2 weeks to collect pledges. There were 50 gift cards donated from the parents. The top three classes with the highest number of pledges raised were Mrs. King, Mrs. McCormick and Mrs. McIntosh's class. Ideally, we would like to do the ice cream parties before the March Break. Will need to discuss dates. Thank you to all families that participated.

Online lunches - the school started the lunch program. Subway and Hero Burgers on alternating Monday and Tuesday respectively. To opt in for these lunches parents should go to school cash online and click their child's name, next click the lunch box button, and then click the order button. This will take you to the calendar and you can choose based on the dates. The weekly deadline is Sunday at 12 noon for the same week. Any updates or changes need to be done prior to noon on the Sunday. In the event of a school closure, parents will receive a credit to their account. A minimum of 20 orders are required to have the vendor deliver to the school. We get a small profit for every order, approximately 50 cents of every order goes back to the school. All of this information has been sent out through the January and February newsletters, it is also available on the schools' website.

Scientist and artists - already discussed.

Jerseys for the sports teams need to be investigated as well, they have not yet been ordered.

5. **Mary Grade 5 Grad Representative**

Mary informed the audience that everything is going well with organizing the graduation trip and things are starting to get booked for both the grad trip and ceremony. The first cheque to Chapman Tours for the 1-day trip will be due soon. This trip will allow the kids to go by bus to the Science Centre, then the Spaghetti Factory, Ripley's Aquarium, the CN Tower Deck and then back to the school. Looking to give the first deposit by March 7th, and the final deposit is due on April 7th. The DJ has been confirmed and booked for the graduation ceremony.

Student Yearbooks: We are looking to find more affordable quotes as the ones that have been obtained thus far are quite expensive.

Movie night April 5th: Looking to provide popcorn and drinks for attendees to purchase at the movie night. Kernels is a TDSB vendor, as such we will be reaching out to them for this event. The plan is to offer popcorn, chocolate bars, candy, and drinks with the movie.

T-shirts will be made for the grade 5 graduation trip. The initial designs have been agreed upon however the parents also want to get input from the students for the logos.

Regarding communication to Grade 5 parents: a template has been drafted outlining the upcoming events. The communication has to be sent to the parents regarding the costs of the trip (approximately \$80 per student). The template must be sent out by the end of March. This will be done through the school and through cash online. There are still some questions regarding the menu for the outing. For example, should this be added to School Cash Online? Should there be a menu from which the kids can select from? Is a fixed menu easier? These will be items that we will be figuring out with the committee.

6. Questions/Comments:

Dimitra informed the attendees that at the last meeting we had discussed hosting a Spring BBQ with the Roadsters. She reiterated that it is important that we sit down and discuss plans with them to get things moving forward. We will need to form a committee that will meet with Denise and Pela as soon as we are back from March Break. Even though we are planning on doing it on a smaller scale, it is still a lot of work, so we should get the ball rolling as soon as possible.

One-year students from each class made themed baskets for raffles. Many of the parents donated items based on theme selected by the students in each classroom. This is something we can do once a committee has been created.

Last year we had our staff luncheon on June 1st, Dimitra would like to propose that we try to hold it a bit earlier this year, possibly in May? Mr. da Luz will discuss with Dimitra. To Ensure it does not fall into EQAO dates.

Next meeting TBD - likely mid-April, depends on when we get our information on staffing allocation and the models for next year.

Zoom Meeting adjourned: 7:24pm