

Riverdale Collegiate Institute
School Council Minutes
March 22, 2017

Present: Rebekah Tsingos, (VP), Nicole Herbert (Chair), Renee Martens, Siriporn Singpauladech, Fiona Christie, Anne Donald, Mirka Macalik (Secretary), Karen Wiseman, Sheila Gray, Anne Francis, Leo Agosto, Fay Wong, George Won

Regrets: Kenn Harvey (Principal), Le Eiko Hockema

Welcome and introductions

Nicole welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

1. Robotics update: SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED

- a. Robotics team is comprised of 40 students and seven teachers, plus some mentors
- b. Includes primarily students interested in maths and sciences, but also those interested in helping them with fundraising and promotion.
- c. Provides a terrific opportunity for those students not involved in sports to still enter a competition
- d. Last year was team's rookie year, yet a strong placement in the competition allowed them to travel to the US to compete with their robot.
- e. This year's competition is at Nipissing University
- f. Sponsorships needed, the annual budget for the team is \$16,000 and they are falling short, especially for travel expenses to the competitions
- g. If you would like to donate or have links to potential sponsors please visit the team's website www.riverdalerobotics.com or contact the school. The sustainability of the club depends on continued financial support.

Business team members will send details of funds required to both finish the year and to continue next year. Nicole will send out to parents.

2. Student Council Report:

- a. "Student Voice" consultations with TDSB held on March 21, one of the TDSB initiatives to engage students as part of the Integrated Equity Framework. The Super Council of students will hold elections in April.
- b. A clean water awareness event was held on March 22 which involved "tastings" and held a book drive to raise funds for a clean water charity.
- c. In April, council plans an Easter Egg hunt and the mini-Olympics to be held Apr 10-12. Main event is Apr.12 for a half day. Teams are multi-grade and participate in athletic and non-athletic contests.
- d. Student council elections will be held in May.

3. Principal's Report:

- a. Standing committee updates: TDSB three pillars are Achievement, Equity, and Wellbeing. School Improvement Plan is built around a goal in each area.

Well-being: working to increase the sense of belonging for every student
Equity: improve awareness of harassing words and equitable communication

Achievement: putting supports in place and moving students forward in each level

Staff PLC groups are engaged in their Equity Framework goals and applying results of their meetings.

- b. Mar 30 is the EQAO literacy testing and there are no regular classes.
- c. Report cards will be coming out on April 13
- d. Time management for students is becoming crucial as we approach year end culminating and exam periods
- e. Culminating activities and exam review info will be posted on the school's website
- f. April 12 is a half day for Mini-Olympics
- g. April 19 is Credit Rescue Day, when students at risk of not succeeding are welcome to attend special sessions in subjects where they are at risk, to either re-do or submit additional work with the opportunity to improve their grades
- h. If concerned, parents are welcome to reach out to teachers for additional information
- i. On April 4, a Canadian Citizenship ceremony will be held in the RCI auditorium: choir will perform
- j. TDSB won't be permitting any new travel to the US, trips already planned can go ahead.
- k. End of April, student recognition rewards

4. Chair's Report:

- a. Resignation of Ronda Kellington means School Council is looking for volunteers to be chairs or co-chairs for next year's council. Anyone interested could join now to learn what's required. Reminder: you don't have to do any fundraising.
- b. Also looking for a Pool Captain: funding for school pools is always at risk so need someone to be contact person if needed to mobilize support for the pool.
- c. First week of May is mental health awareness week: planning events such as random acts of kindness, assembly will be teaching coping skills
- d. MHL is planning student activities for Spring Mental Health week at Riverdale. Nicole suggested that School Council sponsor/create an initiative for staff, as we did last year. The group agreed. Contact Nicole if you'd like to help.
- e. May 5 is the last day for field trips

5. Ward 15 Update:

- a. PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) is part of the huge parent conference on Apr.1, workshops in Special Ed, Mental Health, Aboriginal learning, School Councils, Equity... everyone is welcome to attend. Full list of workshops at www.parentsaspartners.ca
- b. Mar 27 is the next Ward 15 forum at First Nations School of Toronto, topic is Indigenous Education.
- c. Danforth CTI is hosting a free parent workshop series throughout April & May. Visit: www.danforthschoolcouncil.com for more information

- d. TDSB free SC final training session for this year - April 4, Central Tech
- e. Trustee Story has supplied the schools in W15 with anti-discrimination signs plus buttons for every student

6. Social Committee Update:

- a. April 19th Dr. Joey Bonifacio from Sick Kids will be giving a presentation on teen mental health. Everyone is welcome to attend. This event is part of our PRO grant usage. A second event to use the remainder of the grant money is in the planning stage.

Presentation: "What do Teens Talk About?" by Todd Solomon, Kids Help Phone