

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute
School Council Minutes
May 17, 2017**

Present: Rebekah Tsingos, (VP), Nicole Herbert (Chair), Renee Martens, Siriporn Singpauladech, Le Eiko Hockema, Karen Wiseman, Kingly Yee (Student Council Snr. Rep), Olivia Mann-Delany (incoming Student Council VPX), Joe Tsang (Riverdale Alumni Ass.)

Regrets: Kenn Harvey (Principal), Mirka Macilik (Secretary)

Welcome and introductions

Nicole welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

1. Student Council

- a. Next week is the last Spirit Week. The themes include Tiki Tuesday, Black and White Day, Jersey Thursday and Raider Friday.
- b. Elections were held May 17, and this year for the first year, Grade 12's did not vote because a constitutional rule change was made.
- c. There is a group of students in Iceland: Some of the Student Council candidates were on the trip – they had to make videos.
- d. Tickets for the June 27th Prom are currently on sale and still available (at lunch for first 30 minutes).
- e. Athletic Banquet: Tickets are currently on sale.
- f. Music Banquet: Tickets are currently on sale.

2. Riverdale Alumni Association:

- a. Joe Tsang from the Riverdale Alumni Association attended the meeting. The association would like to become more active with the school.
- b. One idea would be to recruit from the Alumni to give a talk to the Students.
- c. They also mentioned that there are two scholarships funded by the Alumni and the money will run out in 6 years. They'd like to partner with the School Council to join forces to raise funds. It is recommended that an Alumni representative come to the first School Council meeting in September to discuss this.
- d. Note: Riverdale Alumni has Whistler's Pub Night on June 2nd.
- e. Action: To provide date for Sept. meeting to Joe Tsang once planned.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Spring Mental Health Initiative – Green Tea Break for Teachers: Thanks go to: Karen, Ashley, Renee, Siriporn, Heather, Carla, Teri, Mirka

4. Teacher's Report

- a. No teacher present.
- b. Riverdale Robotics club sent a Thankyou card to the School Council.

5. Principal's Report (provided by Rebekah Tsingos)

- a. Principal Kenn Harvey is on the Iceland trip with a group of students. The trip is done in conjunction with York University. They staying at Hostels and the students are doing field work.
- b. Staffing: The staffing situation is looking more stable this year compared to previous years when the board has had to surplus teachers. Scheduling for next year is in progress. Note that if there are scheduling conflicts that have to be resolved students may be called in if there are scheduling conflicts that must be resolved. The counsellors will work with the students to identify options that will work for the schedule. Parents must approve the chosen option.
- c. Wellness committee: Mental Health awareness week the first week of May. The MHL students did "Stomp the Stigma" home form initiative. Goal for complete home form to participate. There was full participation. There was a Mindfulness exercise. Freezee give-away with stickers. There was a Green Tea for students – this was well received.
- d. Next 2 PLC mornings: dedicated to Equity, Wellness, and Achievement – they will present to each other.
- e. (Moving forward): Possibly have parents organize their own PLCs around Equity, Wellness, and Achievement at SC meetings next year. Parents seem to be out of the loop so this would help bring them into the dialog. Have PLCs share goals at beginning of year – and see if School Council Parents can help out with those goals.
- f. School Budget Forecast – no data available.
- g. Student Activity Fee – will remain the same, \$50 - \$26 for extra-curriculars, \$24 for yearbook. Hoping to move 100% to cash online. School Cash Online – could potentially be used for School Council fundraising.

6. Ward 15 update:

- a. Next meeting is Tuesday, May 30th 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Roden Public School. The topic is fundraising.
- b. Equity Framework Consultations: There is a survey to fill out around school equity but they want 1 survey per school group – so one response representing all parents. There is room for comments and so that gives some scope for broader representation. We will need to reach out for comments and meet later to discuss how to answer the survey. Due June 15th.
<https://eforms.tdsb.on.ca/lfserver/eetfstakeholder>

7. Chair's Report

- a. Nicole asked for feedback on the Operating Procedures.
- b. TDSB SC board survey report – check the last section on recommendations – particularly the fundraising recommendation may be controversial.

8. PRO grant committee

- a. Parent Social Follow-up: The parent social on the Music Nights went well. It was suggested that next year School Council think about doing a Parent Social event

with food at the Grade 9 Parent Orientation Night. It is usually the 2nd week of September, the week before the first School Council meeting so this would need to be organized in advance.

- b. There is still unused money. The plan is to create a card or magnet to include with Fall package to Grade 9 parents.
- c. There was a lot of great feedback from the survey of the guest speaker event. There was a large turnout and about one third of the attendees were not from Riverdale (outreach is working).
- d. Application for next year's deadline: June 15th (extended from May 25th) Focus: Equitable Access to Post-Secondary Education. Guidelines available here: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/guidelines.html> .

9. Goals Evaluation & Planning for next year

- a. It is challenging to have parents participating in the School Committees, since many cannot attend during the day. Look for other ways to include parents – possible parallel SC forums.
- b. Presentations and Events:
 - i. October: Parent Potluck prior to meeting
 - ii. November: Steve Chappelle presented “Social Media and the Family”
 - iii. January: Riverdale Guidance presented “Course Selection”
 - iv. February: Summertime Info for Teens carousel
 - v. March: Todd Solomon (Kids Help Phone) presented “What do Teens Talk About? Stresses and Supports”
 - vi. April: Dr. Joey Bonifacio (Hospital for Sick Children) presented “Mental Health & Teens”
 - vii. May: Parent Social, mix & mingle
- c. Provided info to parents in our monthly newsletter, including needs expressed in our annual parent survey.
- d. Accountability – completed School Statement of Needs (SSoN), produced Annual Report, reviewed our By-laws & Operating Procedures, and participated in board Equity consultation.
- e. Dates for next year's meetings need to be determined now to meet print deadlines for the student agenda. The group agreed to go ahead with the 3rd Thursday of the month for the first term and the 3rd Wednesday of the month for the second term.
- f. Renee Martens has agreed to help with leadership tasks for RCI School Council going into next year.
- g. Planning for the Fall Parent Package:
 - i. Trifold pamphlet – needs to be updated (get dates from Rebekah)
 - ii. Direct appeal request letter – School Council makes the appeal. This year, we raised around \$1400 for the school's Discretionary Fund. Council approved sending this letter again next Fall. Coordinate numbers for letter

content with VP Tsingos. It may be possible to use School Cash Online for this but we need to confirm that tax receipts would be issued.

- iii. We discussed the possibility of using the remaining PRO grant money to include a School Council postcard with the Fall Parent Package.

10. New Business

- a. Discussed email communications and resolved that emails sent to people attending school council meetings will be sent using bcc.
- b. A big thank you to our departing Chair, Nicole Herbert for her hard work over the years.