

Riverdale Collegiate Institute
School Council Minutes
January 23, 2014

Present: Kenn Harvey (Principal), Nicole Herbert (Chair), Susan Farrow (Secretary), Saddeiq Holder, Kim McClory, Derby Crewe, Matilda Kissi, Lisa Xiong (Student Council VPX), Harumi Yamamoto, Laura Fitzsimmons, Mirka Macalik, Lakshimi Kygo, Sirje Lautens, Dave Robb (Teacher rep)

Regrets: April Moon

1. **Welcome** - Nicole welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Student Council Update

a. Recent Events:

- Riverdale Idol
- Girl Space Holiday Food Drive
- Winter Concert
- GAA Gingerbread making fundraiser
- Spirit Day
- Biz-Bus Week

b. Upcoming Events:

- Semi-formal on January 24th
- Talent Show Auditions
- Course Fair on Jan. 28 in the atrium
- Japan students will be in the school on Feb. 13th. A spirit day is planned for when they are here.
- Mini-Olympics (planned for first week of May)

c. Kenn and Lisa took the group through a detailed list outlining how the \$100,000 prize money has been spent to date as well as a list of items earmarked for purchase. Equipment for the Science dept, Library, and Music dept. has been purchased. TV's for communication of student information have been ordered, as well as 2 water bottle refill stations/fountains.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Extra-curricular activities – Still no response to our letter regarding our concerns around the scheduling of sports activities.
- b. Caring, Safe and Accepting Committee is scheduled to meet on Feb. 4th.
- c. Equity Committee is scheduled to meet on Feb. 18th.

4. Principal's Report

- a. There have been concerns with respect to the cold temperatures in the building. The caretaking staff, and in particular the head caretaker, Scott Mead, have been going to great lengths to address the problem.

- b. The air-conditioning system is being replaced with completion expected some time in August 2014.
- c. Many activities are scheduled for Black History Month including an assembly with several guest speakers.
- d. Staff reps for council will rotate according to who is available.

5. Chair's Report

- a. Applications are now available for the Parent Reaches Out grant. If anyone has ideas for projects around parent involvement for the School Council for next year please see Nicole. A grant of up to \$1,000 may be awarded to support the project.
- b. Nicole passed around flyers regarding upcoming workshops. Details will be published in the monthly parent newsletter.

6. Ward 15 Update - Lakshimi advised that there was nothing to report. Next meeting is Jan. 29 at Eastern.

7. By-law Review – The by-laws were reviewed and passed unanimously.

8. Planning for the Year - Susan presented the Parent Survey results. Unfortunately the response rate was down this year but with 67 responses we were still able to glean some information from the results. The three top concerns were Academic Support, Teen Anxiety, and Extracurricular Activities. The sub-committee reviewed the results in conjunction with council's Goal Management poll and put forth some suggestions for future speakers and ideas for addressing the concerns.

9. New Business - Nicole shared with the group a suggestion for helping Grade 9s get started on their community hours. Other schools have organized "Grade 9 Community Hours Kick Start Days." The idea is to have the School Council reach out to community organizations looking for volunteers and then organize a busload of grade 9 volunteers. If anyone has any ideas for possible community partners or would like to spearhead this initiative please see Nicole.

Council adjourned.

Meeting followed by a very excellent and informative presentation by Dave Robb, RCI Guidance Dept on Pathways, Course-Selection and Post-Secondary Education.