

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute
School Council Minutes
November 18, 2015**

Present: Rebekah Tsingos (Vice Principal), Matilda Kissi (Chair), Nicole Herbert, Ronda Kellington, Mirka Macalik, Anne Donald, Fiona Christie, Michael Dranitsaris (Student Council VPX), Nhat Le (Teachers rep), Sadiesqa Holder, April Moon, Maureen Bandola, Laarni Portelli, Leo Agosto, Karen Wiseman

1. Welcome / Introductions

2. Student Council Update (Michael Dranitsaris.)

- a. Remembrance Day assembly held on Nov.11, in light of it being Aboriginal month, included student performance of Aboriginal songs and discussion of native contribution to war effort
- b. Student clubs are now receiving their grants and getting underway
- c. A Leadership retreat took place this month, since a last minute event opportunity, 23 leaders from various school organizations were chosen to attend. If offered again next year, a broader selection process will likely be involved.
- d. A student council rep will attend meetings of the Program Area Review Committee (PARC), a review of underutilized schools in our family of schools.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Fundraising direct appeal results: \$1345 raised to date. Plan to resend letter, as many did not receive original. New version to be sent out with report cards. Nicole will send out draft for reworking.
- b. Breakfast program is eligible for charitable donations as well. Currently offering healthy snacks from 8-8:30, with leftover available until gone.
- c. No school committee meetings during current labour situation
- d. Parent Social in planning phase: potential fundraising event scheduled for Feb. 4, 2016. Opportunity for parent connection, with potential for some of the school clubs to offer demos.

5. Principal's Report (Ms. Tsingos)

- a. Labour update: caretakers and office staff back to regular operations, teachers involved in selective strike of admin. duties. Sports and other teams going ahead as before. Funding approved for supply teachers to cover field trips etc.
- b. Teachers are not participating on committees (no PLC late start on Thurs) and there are no staff meetings
- c. Report cards (Nov. 26) will include marks, but no comments or learning skills update
- d. Parent teacher interviews will be held but only during school hours on Dec. 2 (no evening session), parents requiring alternate dates can make separate arrangements with individual teachers.
- e. Aboriginal Education Month – November. Information delivered daily via announcements, including music by Aboriginal artists.

- f. Focus on Success room update: part of mental health initiative allowing a respite to emotionally fragile students in a supportive environment. Students who may benefit from this type of place to go for a break can be recommended to staff.
- g. Student Forum: giving students an opportunity to share concerns/ideas with admin directly: a student council initiative from last year. No dates set yet to run forum this year.
- h. Grade 9 assembly was held updating students on the 40 hours of community involvement required to graduate
- i. School Improvement Plan (SIP) Plan for student achievement and well being discussed. Electronic copy available, input encouraged. Bring questions, ideas next meeting.

6. Teacher's Report (Mr. Le)

- a. Staff are trying to keep things as smooth as possible through the labour disruption
- b. Parents and students are encouraged to reach out to staff if a student is feeling particularly stressed or anxious.
- c. Teachers will be reaching out to parents if a student is in jeopardy academically
- d. Robotics club has had 7 engineers volunteer since the last meeting so plans are well under way. Fundraising a major focus. Students will be organizing a few in-school events.

7. Ward 15 update (Nicole)

- a. Caring and Safe schools presentation primary focus: see trustee Jennifer Story's webpage for update: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward15/Ward15/WardCouncil.aspx>
- b. Next meeting on Dec. 3, 7-9 pm, Westwood - all are welcome

8. Chair's Report (Matilda)

- a. Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (PARC). Matilda & Ronda are representing Riverdale parents on this committee. TDSB holding 5 working meetings as well as public meetings to discuss ideas for efficient use of high schools & programs in our Family of Schools, esp. those not at capacity.
- b. Goal planning: conducting annual parent survey: shall we go ahead? Set up SC table during parent/teacher interviews. Parent social: improving parent engagement
- c. Relationship building: bridging any existing gap between parents and teachers: little things can make a difference, improving communication. Ideas discussed include "Teachers' Corner" piece for SC newsletter, teacher treats, webinar/video post, social activities
- d. Looking for suggestions for speakers to present at our meetings

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: January 20, 2016