

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute
School Council Minutes
October 21, 2015**

Present: Kenn Harvey (Principal), Nicole Herbert (Chair Emeritus), Mirka Macalik (Secretary), Matilda Kissi (Chair), Heather Cook, Sharon Wood, Saddeiq Holder, Nhat Le (Teacher rep), Michael Dranitsaris (Student Council rep), Ronda Kellington (Vice-chair), Fiona Christie

Regrets: Laurie Hall, Andria Matadial

- 1. Welcome / Introduction** Matilda welcomed everyone and those present introduced themselves
- 2. Student Council Update** (Michael Dranitsaris.)
 - a. Club Fair was held on Oct. 16, an opportunity for students to learn about and sign up for one of the many clubs which are available. Event was well attended and Gr. 9's encouraged to join. A separate Club Fair was suggested for grade 9's in January to increase engagement.
 - b. Planning underway for a May Fair fundraising event. Funds to be donated to Family of Schools members who have less fundraising capabilities. Participants from elementary schools will enjoy bouncy castles, games etc.
 - c. Halloween events planned for month end, eg. haunted house \$2 event
 - d. Semi-formal slated for January at new venue, Spirale Banquet Centre
- 3. School Statement of Needs**

Approved and attached. Nicole to forward to Superintendent.
- 4. Matters Arising**

Fundraising from council's Direct Appeal letter has raised \$845 to date. Curriculum Night Oct. 1 very well attended, generous donations more than offset cost of BBQ. Thanks to all who attended and to those who volunteered: Kim, Derby, Matilda, Le Eiko, Mirka and April.
- 5. Principal's Report** (Kenn Harvey)
 - a. Planning: Gr. 8 visits in January, Nov. 9 take your kid to work day, Nov. 13 PA day
 - b. Fall dance under consideration, low interest has been a factor in the past.
 - c. Nov. 4 Chamber Music Night in music room, open to all, different music genres
 - d. Report cards go home Nov. 26, Dec. 2, Parent/Teacher interviews, on-line sign-up, 5 minutes per interview.
 - e. Job action update: Caretakers are not cleaning common areas, except in the event of a safety issue (eg. spills) Classroom garbage bins being emptied less often. Main office closed during lunch hour.
 - f. School committees meeting schedule to come.

6. Teacher's Report (Nhat Le)

- a. Mr. Le provided an update on the Robotics Team. The team has written up their business plan and added new members during the Club Fair. More information, including the business plan, is available on the team's website: riverdalerobotics.com
- b. **Mr. Le continues to ask for parent volunteers who have an interest and have engineering or business experience/connections, who would like to get involved with the team.**
- c. Space for a workshop has been dedicated in the parking garage.

7. Ward Council update (Nicole Herbert)

- a. All the high schools in our Family of Schools are being included in an area review (PARC) regarding over/under enrollment, program delivery. A consultation process will begin in Nov.; 2 parents per school will be invited to represent their school
- b. Enrollment in secondary schools is down across the TDSB, as projected. No loss of teaching staff in our Family.
- c. TDSB has created an Integrity Commissioner role and is in the hiring stage.
- d. Next Ward 15 council meeting will be at Blake School on Nov. 3, minutes of last meeting will be available on trustee, Jennifer Story's website.

8. Chair's Report (Matilda Kissi)

- a. Review of Chair structure: instituted to ease transition, effectively have a Chair and two Vice-chairs sharing duties. Matilda: school committees and sub-committees, Ronda: increase two way communication with parents, Nicole: minutes and newsletter distribution
- b. SC budget expense: \$500 fee approved to pay for annual iContact subscription

9. By-Law Review

Updated to reflect that we review in October, not June.
By-laws reviewed and passed as otherwise written.

10. School Committees

- a. Call out to parents wanting to be involved with Caring, Safe, Inclusive and Mental Health or Equity committees (Heather and Nicole offered – MHL/CSI). Equity still open for a parent liaison.
- b. Discussed possible parent social event, open to suggestions for event on or off site, tie event to raise funds, possibly for Robotics Club.
- c. Academic support - Is there enough available and are enough students aware of options? Should senior students be invited to volunteer for peer tutoring? Would be organized through the Guidance office.

11. New Business

- d. Discussed suggestion that gr. 9 timetables be made available to them at an earlier date, possibly with a map of the school attached.
- e. Could there be an on-line payment option for school activity fees? The board is currently working on this.

- f. Sharon distributed promo items to the students in attendance for Kids Help Phone's new venture Brotalk. This help/chat line reaches out to boys, who typically underutilize the service. Sharon will connect with the MHL with this.

Meeting adjourned

Next Council meeting November 18, 2015