

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute**  
**School Council Minutes**  
**October 20, 2016**

**Present:** Kenn Harvey (Principal), Rebekah Tsingos (VP), Dave Robb (Guidance), Ronda Kellington (Chair), Nicole Herbert, Mirka Macalik, Karen Jungjohann, Glenn Wiebe, Karen Wiseman, Clare Walker, Virginia Dial, Susan Chong, Ashley McCall, Manisha deLanerolle, Saddieqa Holder, Hana Wang, Anne Francis, Eric Goddard, Heather Cook, Renee Martens, Katya Willinsky, Siriporn Singpauladech, Carla Meili

**Regrets:** Julia Hagon (VPX)

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Thanks to everyone for coming out to tonight's Pot Luck. The group introduced themselves.

### **1. Student Council Report**

Student Council is currently busy planning Halloween for the haunted house event that we're going to run. Halloween-o-grams (little bags of chocolate covered almonds that friends can purchase and send to each other) are also being sold, but not through student council. Wednesday was our Club Fair where all the clubs advertised what they were doing and student were given an opportunity to find out what we offer. It was a huge success, no problems there!

Next Wednesday is our Honours assembly for students who made honour roll (80% average minimum). Class will end at 2 to allow for set up and the assembly should go from 3-5pm.

### **2. Matters Arising**

Council's direct appeal fundraising letter requests parents contribute to the school's Discretionary Fund. So far, \$1180 has come in.

Thanks to everyone who helped out at this year's gr.9 Parent Orientation night. The turnout was great and many names were collected for our email list.

### **3. Principal's Report**

- a. EQAO- online test run was unsuccessful and will be available for students to re-do as needed. Students who were able to complete the test, will be given the choice of writing a handwritten version later in the year.
- b. Due to enrollment above expectations, RCI has been allocated 2.5 additional teachers which will result in about 10 new classes. Greatest impact will be on grade 9 classes where class sizes were above the allowed numbers
- c. Changes to student timetables will be completed by Oct. 27, again, mostly grade 9's will be impacted.
- d. Council receives \$1500 annually from the Ministry of Ed. for School Council support, plus \$675 this year from our PRO grant application. \$1500 has been used in the past to provide Pathways awards to graduating students
- e. Club Fair was held on Oct. 19

#### 4. Teacher Update

- a. Teacher's contracts were ratified so work is back to normal and planning is on track
- b. Class sizes are a concern, but with new allocation, should be brought in line by the Oct. 31 deadline. Additional desks have been ordered to accommodate.
- c. Thursday morning PLC (Professional Learning Communities) has been restarted resulting in students having a late start. Teachers hold regular staff meetings in addition to convening groups focused on wellbeing, equity and achievement.
- d. Breakfast club has restarted, providing students with grab and go options: hot items on Fridays to the first 100 students.
- e. Semi-formal planned for January, but no details yet
- f. Student awards & honours day, Oct. 26 assembly

#### 5. Chair Update

- a. Schedule of events for School Council nights: Nov.17 - Internet safety, meetings in Feb and April are designated for events/speakers. Topics will be chosen based on parent feedback from last month's poll. Parents are encouraged to offer suggestions for topics or presenters. Contact Ronda at [SC.RiverdaleCollegiateInstitute@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:SC.RiverdaleCollegiateInstitute@tdsb.on.ca)
- b. Council bylaws, per Ministry guidelines, were accepted by consensus
- c. School Statement of Needs, outlining the specific needs of RCI, which are communicated to the Superintendent when a principal selection process is underway. The current Statement was adopted by consensus of the council and is now passed on to the student council for feedback.
- d. Any parent interested in helping with Co-chair/Vice-chair duties is still welcome.

#### 6. New Business

- a. Question from parents about why Commencement is being held in the fall rather than in June. TDSB is roughly 50/50 on June vs. fall Commencement ceremonies.
- b. RCI has traditionally held this ceremony in the fall. While this may not permit all the graduates to attend it has been kept up for the following reasons: a late June event also has many missing students due to summer employment (primarily camps), student yearbooks are not ready until the fall, students get an opportunity to catch up with old classmates and it accommodates late grads.
- c. RCI books for the Thurs before Thanksgiving weekend in the hope that out of town grads might be able to attend.
- d. There has also been discussion about prom being held in May: teachers noted that a significant number of students "checked out" after the event even though final exams were yet to come. Timing of prom is tied to the timing of Ramadan in order to enable the maximum number of student participants.

**Addendum:** Next Ward 15 Council forum is Thurs., Oct. 26, 7-9, at Queen Alexandra MS.  
Topic: "Tearing Down the Walls: How We Help Students Overcome Barriers to Success and Well-being"