

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute**  
**School Council Minutes**  
**Sept. 30, 2015**

**Present:** Kenn Harvey (Principal), Nicole Herbert (Chair), Dave Robb (Teacher Representative), Rebekah Tsingos (VP), Mirka Macalik (Secretary), Matilda Kissi (Vice-Chair), Andria Matadial, Richard Stang, Cheryl Biswas, Matthew Biswas, Maureen Bandola, Heather Cook, Sharon Wood, Saddeiqqa Holder, Laarni Portelli, Michael Dranitsaris (student rep), Ronda Kellington, Brian Coughlin, Leo Agosto, Kim McClory, Jennifer Ferreira, Fiona Christie, Laurie Hall, Anne Donald, Theodora Rowlands, Nhat Le (Science dept.)

**Regrets:** Siobhan Keogh

- 1. Welcome / Introductions** Nicole welcomed everyone. Largest attendance in several years! Reviewed council regulations and confirmed that there will be 8 meetings, held monthly, with all interested parties welcome to attend. Speakers will be included on a number of those evenings. Riverdale SC has current By-laws and Operating Procedures. Curriculum Night Oct.1.
- 2. Student Council Update**
  - a. Student activities are in full swing, Welcome Back assembly was held as well as Spirit Week.
  - b. Club Fair, Oct.16 will be an opportunity for students to learn about and sign up for one of the many clubs, which are available.
  - c. Planning for January semi-formal has already begun.
  - d. Halloween concert, plus events planned for month end
  - e. There are 3 new tv's in the school that broadcast student announcements and info. These tv's were purchased from the money won in the past State Farm contest.
- 3. Matters Arising**
  - f. Student Agenda was updated this year. Be aware of the board's updated electronics policy (P088), that there is no expectation of privacy when communicating on school Wi-Fi, or networks, using personal or board devices.
  - g. The Dress Code was also reviewed last year. While defining appropriate dress is difficult, it is encouraged. Any garment with language that discriminates, promotes violence, is forbidden. This complies with the TDSB policy.
  - h. SIP (School Improvement Plan) is a living document discussing achievement and open to input on literacy, numeracy, Pathways and CCC (Community, Caring and Culture). Committees will be set up for Equity and CCC with an effort made to involve the SC parent reps.
  - i. School Climate Survey conducted every 5 years, done last Spring. Data will be available later this year. Will include TDSB and RCI stats on safe and accepting schools responses.

#### 4. Principal's Report

- a. Mr. Harvey apologized for there having been school events booked on religious holidays in September. They accidentally used an out of date calendar.
- b. Course outlines are available on the school website.
- c. Parents can sign up to receive two sets of emails, those from the Principal and those from the School Council.
- d. Parents are encouraged to visit the school on Oct. 1 for a BBQ followed by Curriculum Night, where they can get general updates from teacher reps.
- e. Staffing review: as attendance is at projected levels, there will be no reworking of timetables as in previous years. Class sizes are within mandated guidelines.
- f. Discretionary Budget: roughly \$300,000, of which half goes to fixed operating costs (supplies, photocopying etc.). The remaining amount must be divided up amongst all the programs offered, so a very tight budget. See the RCI budget at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/BusinessServices/BudgetsandFinancialStatements/SchoolBudgets.aspx?SchoolNo=5555>
- g. Roofing: RCI was to have the roof replaced this summer but the work is not yet completed. The school is being retrofitted for solar panels. The new solar roof has been leased in order to provide power into the grid, not directly to the school.
- h. Staff representation at School Council meetings will be on a rotating basis.
- i. Wi-Fi in the school was to be upgraded to fiber optic, but that has not been done yet.

#### 5. Teacher's Report (Mr. Robb)

- a. PA days: school based (Special Ed., Mental Health etc.) and Board based (larger forum)
- b. First report cards will be coming out in late November. Evaluations by teachers have already begun in order to provide support to students who might be struggling, especially gr. 9's.
- c. Teachers are also in the process of forming their PLC groups, allowing each to focus on various areas like Pathways, Mental Health, and STEM etc.
- d. Mr. Le introduced the parents to his new Robotics Team, which would eventually compete against other high schools. The team is open to all students. Funding for the first year is through grants, but for subsequent years, the team will need to raise funds: \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually. **Mr. Le is asking for parent volunteers who have an interest and have engineering or business experience / connections, who would like to get involved with the team.** Four teachers have already signed on to assist. The team has already begun planning and budgeting; building will begin in January.

#### 6. Ward Council update

- a. Ward 15 Council meets monthly and everyone is welcome. Meetings are held at various ward schools and attended by the Trustee and Superintendent. RCI sends a parent rep. First meeting is on Oct. 5 at Bruce school.

#### 7. Chair's Report

- a. Vice Principal candidate selection opportunity. Parents are now part of the interview teams for teacher candidates applying to become VPs. There will be a

one evening training session, which will allow parents to participate in candidate interviews. The interview team consists of one Superintendent, two principals and a parent. A great opportunity for parent involvement. If interested, contact: [Cori.Byberg@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Cori.Byberg@tdsb.on.ca)

## **8. Election**

- a.** An election within 30 days of the start of the school year is mandated by the Ministry of Education for School Councils.
- b.** Kenn suggested the group honour the spirit of last year's succession planning idea (Chair-current, Vice Chair - future and a Chair emeritus - past).
- c.** Nominations and elections results:
  - Chair: Matilda Kissi
  - Vice-Chair: Ronda Kellington
  - Chair emeritus: Nicole Herbert
  - Reporting co-Secretaries: Mirka Macalik and Sharon Wood
  - Ward rep: Matilda Kissi and Nicole Herbert

**There was no new business.**

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Next Council meeting scheduled for October 21, 2015**