

Riverdale Collegiate Institute
School Council Minutes
April 24, 2014

Present: Kenn Harvey (Principal), Nicole Herbert (Chair), Susan Farrow (Secretary), Lisa Xiong (Student Council VPX), Jenny Chen (Teacher Rep), Andre Simoneau (Teacher Rep), Kim McClory, Derby Crewe, Matilda Kissi, Cathy Kettle, Lakshmi Kygo, April Moon

Regrets: Mirka Macalik

1. Welcome - Nicole welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Student Council Update

a. Recent Events:

- BYO Banana Day
- New issue Riverdale Spectator distributed
- Free The Children - We Are Silent campaign
- Earth Week
- Art students traveled to New York
- Music students traveled to Cleveland

b. Upcoming Events:

- Mini-Olympics
- Student Council Elections – meet new team at next mtg.
- Amazing Race
- Athletic Banquet
- Prom (June 24th – Palais Royale)

3. Matters Arising

- a. Extra-curricular activities – Kenn reminded George Kourtis that we are waiting for a response to our letter of concern.
- b. Parents Reaching Out Grants – Ideas welcomed. Applications due May 16.
- c. Mental Health Team – Still assembling committee. Hope to have 1st meeting within the next 2-3 weeks. Kim, Nicole, Lakshmi asked to be included on the team.
- d. Staff Reps - 2 teachers present for this meeting (see above) invited to report on staff initiatives for late students.

4. Principal's Report

- a. Late/Attendance Initiatives – Ms. Chen and Mr. Simoneau were present to discuss new late/attendance initiatives. The staff recently struck a committee to address the issue. So far, changes include: moved from a 7 to 5 minute bell at 8:45; last 2 minutes is new music to remind students they must be on their way to class; teachers more visible in the halls to encourage students to get to class. Grade 9s must now sign-in if late. The intention is to help prevent gr. 9 students from developing bad habits. The group discussed ideas for going forward,

including research into best practices, and consulting students. Parents welcomed the opportunity to help staff. Council will include lateness data in our parent newsletter.

- b. Staffing – Stable enrolment is projected, therefore staffing model is predicted to be stable. Riverdale will receive 1 additional allocation for a Focus on Success Room teacher. This program is designed to support students at risk and will include a Child & Youth Worker. It will be in place for September 2014.

5. Ward 15 Update - Next meeting April 29th at Monarch Pk. Director Donna Quan will be speaking. New board policy around mandatory police checks (PRC) for parent volunteers in schools will be on the agenda for discussion.

6. Chair's Report – Deferred to next meeting, due to time constraints.

7. New Business - None

Council adjourned.

Meeting was followed by a very informative presentation from Dr. Afroze Anjum, TDSB Psychologist, titled "Bullying Hurts".