

Riverdale Collegiate Institute
School Council Minutes
April 23, 2015

Present: Kenn Harvey (Principal), Nicole Herbert (Chair), Susan Farrow (Secretary), Dave Robb (Teacher Representative), Kim McClory, Mirka Macalik, Siobhan Keogh, Carol Baum, Matilda Kissi, Raihana Ingar, Laura Fitzsimmons, Karen Wiseman

1. **Welcome** - Nicole welcomed everyone.
2. **Student Council Update** – None this month.
3. **Matters Arising**
 - a. School Climate Survey to be held in early May. Students in grades 10 through 12, grade 9 students through their BTT class, will be asked to participate. An additional 10 questions on mental health issues, including a question around self-harm, from Riverdale MHL will be included at the end of the survey. Given the nature of the questions, this part of the survey will not be anonymous.
 - b. Exam Prep and Culminating Activities postings to the school website were delayed due to technical difficulties.
4. **Principal's Report**
 - a. Staffing Update – Enrolment is expected to be down by about 20 students next year, therefore teacher allocation will likely be down by one. Noting the TDSB is not yet in a legal strike position we are unlikely to see the teacher's strike before this school year ends.
 - b. The Caring, Safe and Accepting Committee has been advised by the Toronto Police that their proposed hold-and-secure procedure may not be implemented. In any hold-and-secure situation no one, including students, are allowed in and out of the building. The Toronto Police have also advised that in a lock-down situation all students should proceed to the nearest classroom. No other instruction may be given.
 - c. The Mental Health Committee has been working hard preparing for Mental Health Week to be held the week of April 27th. Numerous activities are planned for the week, culminating in an assembly on Friday May 1st.
 - d. School Improvement Plan update – Kenn walked us through the progress to date on the Caring, Community & Culture pillar of the plan (this year's focus). Action steps to date include: establishing the Caring, Safe and Accepting Committee and Equity Committee, introducing student Mental Health Champions, working hard to ensure grade 9's are included in initiatives and clubs.
5. **Teacher's Report** – Dave gave us a brief update on the OSSTP strike. His comments echoed those of Kenn.

6. Ward 15 Update - Nicole provided an update from the Ward 15 meeting. The Ward 15 Council has formed a Steering Committee to help create an inclusive, parent-lead forum.

7. Chair's Report

- a. Nicole reminded the School Council once again that PRO grant applications are coming due May 19.
- b. Nicole advised that the latest in Minister of Ed. Liz Sandals' focus on the TDSB is a recently appointed panel to do a Governance Review of the board of trustees. This panel is holding public consultations as well as conducting an online survey. The council reviewed and offered input on some of the questions from the online survey. Nicole will be attending the May 5 consultation.

8. Agenda Book Content Review – The School Council reviewed and provided feedback on the front-end content of the Agenda. Much was discussed, including dress code and cell-phone use in class, and Kenn will take parent feedback into account for the update. Kenn will bring back a draft of the new Dress Code section, which needs to comply with the board's stance within the Human Rights Code.

9. New Business – None

Council adjourned.

Next meeting – May 21