

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute
School Council Minutes
February 19, 2015**

Present: Kenn Harvey (Principal), Nicole Herbert (Chair), Susan Farrow (Secretary), Nelia Wong (Student Council VPX), Saddeiqqa Holder, Mirka Macalik, Mary Anne Lemm, Matilda Kissi (Vice-Chair), Siobhan Keogh, Karen Wiseman

Regrets: Sharon Wood

1. Welcome - Matilda welcomed everyone.

2. Student Council Update

- a. Last month's semi-formal was a success.
- b. Feb. 24th is course selection deadline and the math contest for grades 9, 10 and 11. The grade 12 math contest is in April.
- c. Riverdale Band attended the Ontario Band Association music festival earning two silvers. Feb. 26th at 7pm is the band only concert.
- d. March 5th is Riverdale's Got Talent
- e. March 26th is the Ontario Vocal Festival

3. Matters Arising

- a. FoS Room – Kenn provided an update on the success of the room to date. First semester saw 500 student interactions. End goal of the room is to support and achieve full classroom participation. Discussion around how the room can be mis-used, and the checks & balances that need to be in place. Kenn was asked to look into feedback for parents on usage of the room.

4. Principal's Report

- a. Sub- Committee Reports
 - Caring, Safe and Accepting Committee met today. Finalized non-instructional "lock-down" protocol. Policy has been sent to the TDSB Safe Schools committee for review. Once approved, the policy will go to staff and then be introduced to students via an assembly with one planned practice to occur at lunch before year-end.
 - Mental Health League (MHL) – Committee hopes to piggyback a student survey onto the School Climate Survey to be conducted this year.
- b. February is Black History Month with many planned activities including an assembly on Feb. 22nd organized by the Riverdale African Canadian Student Association.
- c. A Chinese New Year event is also happening Feb. 27 at lunch.

5. Ward 15 Update - Nicole provided an update from the Ward 15 meeting. Items covered included TDSB Budget Forum, and Acceptable Use Policy parent consultation on Feb. 25, 7-8pm at 5050 Yonge.

6. Chair's Report

- a. Nicole passed around some information sheets on various upcoming parent conferences and workshops.
- b. Thanks to Mary Anne and Kim for doing parent outreach at last week's Parent Teacher interviews. We now have over 500 names on our iContact SC email list.

7. Planning Parent Engagement – Based on the results of School Council's research this year, the items on top of the list are Staff, Student Engagement and Academic Support. In keeping with this year's School Improvement Plan's focus on the Caring & Community Culture pillar, Nicole floated the idea of PD sessions for parents, run by teachers. Parent PD builds the capacity of parents to understand the school system, in particular at Riverdale. Staff, in turn, get parents on-board and builds better relationships. All of this will lead to better support and success for students. Parent PD would be staff-led events, focusing on Academic Support. Possible session topics could be homework, study strategies, math night, mock classes, exam prep., etc. While this project is still in its infancy, through discussions, Riverdale Curriculum Leaders have decided to post study outlines and exam reviews along with descriptions of Culminating Activities for all courses at all grade levels. The plan for a Parent PD event is likely to run in April. Ultimately, it would be great to hold events in Chinese too.

8. New Business – Council agreed to add, as a standing agenda item, a Teachers' Report.

Council adjourned. Next meeting March 26.

Meeting followed by a very informative presentation on Sexual Health and Teens by Judy Archer, Toronto Public Health.