

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute  
School Council Minutes  
February 18, 2016**

**Present:** Kenn Harvey( Principal), Matilda Kissi, Nicole Herbert, Ronda Kellington, Mirka Macalik, Michael Dranitsaris, Siobhan Keogh, Anne Francis, Derby Crewe, Fiona Christie, Saddieqa Holder, Maureen Bandola, Sharon Wood, Karen Wiseman

**1. Welcome / Introductions**

**2. Student Council Update**

- a. Jan/Feb mostly quiet as planning for events has taken up most time
- b. Semi Formal on January 22 was a huge success, 400 tickets sold, Parkside Manor will probably stay as site for future events
- c. April 11, assembly for all students to increase awareness of the dangers of texting and driving
- d. RCI clubs are now posting updates to Facebook for info on events. Michael provided list for SC info sharing
- e. Planning a Spirit Day March 10, BYOB (bring your own banana) Sundae Day
- f. Band concert March 3

**3. Matters Arising**

- a. Parent Social update – no new developments to date
- b. Parent Survey follow-up – Thanks to Rebekah for promptly addressing parent concerns. SC is now connected to RAA with new liaison rep, Student Council collected list of club info for SC newsletter/school website, Mental Health queries addressed
- c. Council promo - Thanks to Fiona for helping collect names for our email list at Parent/Teacher interview day. Now at 570 subscribed to our iContact list.

**4. Teachers' Update**

- a. Robotics Club update: robot is finished and has been test driven at the student contest in the atrium today at lunch. The competition is March 3-5 at the Mattamy Centre. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwVYKH7nE5u-MjlpMmpidVNLOTg/view?pref=2&pli=1>

Reminder:

\*\*\* Science teacher, Mr. Dermer is holding a fund raising event with his band at the Silver Dollar Room on Spadina (ages 19+ only) on March 5, \$5 cover will go to the Robotics Club. Everyone welcome!

**5. Principal's Report**

- a. Labour disruptions continue as still no agreement between teachers and TDSB. Issues affect administrative duties primarily so report cards will still lack detail.
- b. No **School Improvement Plan** (SIP), per directive of temporary TDSB director.
- c. **School Climate Survey** - RCI is within line of other TDSB schools, 89% of our students like their school vs. 80% TDSB wide. Also slightly higher score on adults easier to talk to, cleanliness and safety.

- d. **EQAO** results - details available on the TDSB website. One area for focus at RCI is a slight decline in math scores.

#### **6. Ward 15 update**

- a. Dundas School will be latest school to offer French immersion; will be getting overflow
- b. Presentation “Teaching & Learning” featured many resources.  
[www.tdsbweb/teaching&learning](http://www.tdsbweb/teaching&learning)
- c. Next meeting is March 24 at Earl Beatty – TDSB Budget presentation

#### **7. Chairs’ Report**

- a. PARC update – next public meeting is March 10 presentation of the final option to be recommended to board
- b. PRO Grants – Parent Reaching Out grant applications due May 29. Min. of Ed. money, grants up to \$1000 for parent engagement initiatives. Council to consider applying for Parent Social events.

#### **8. School Improvement Plan**

No work on the SIP so far. The board has this on hold.

**Mental Health update** – No team at Riverdale this year, due to labour action.

Barbara Chiu, swim instructor, has updated the MHL bulletin board.

Resiliency workshops for students are running.

Council to consider running a simple initiative in May, when school stress is high.

#### **9. Parent Engagement** – guest Sandy Yep

Sandy led an inspiring discussion on the challenges of parent engagement in high school. Brought several useful resources from Min. of Ed. Council is interested in having un-meetings where parents get together for themed discussions. Consider holding meetings off-site. Look into broadening our parent orientation.

**Next meeting – March 24**