

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute**  
**School Council Minutes**  
**January 20, 2016**

**Present:** Rebekah Tsingos (Vice Principal), Matilda Kissi (Chair), Nicole Herbert (Co-chair), Ronda Kellington (Co-chair), Mirka Macalik (Secretary), Dave Robb (Teacher Rep), Julia Hagon (Student Council), Nhat Le, Vicki Gagnon, Jennifer and Humberto Ferreira, Leslie Johnston, Marc van Beusekom, Laarni Portelli, Sharon Wood, Adrian Sheepers, Laura Fitzsimmons, Chris Chen, Zhao Feng Zhi, Janice Veilleux, Beth Popoff, Karen Warner, Tim Kindrachuk, Daniel Wang, Karen Wiseman, Leo Agosto

**Regrets:** Michael Dranitsaris (Student Council VPX), Kenn Harvey (Principal)

**1. Welcome / Introductions**

**2. Student Council Update**

- a. Last week, gr.11/12, Biz Buzz week, presentation of projects from various business classes
- b. Jan. 21, exams for gr.12 math and gr.10 civics
- c. Friday, Jan. 22, semi-formal. Sold out 350 tickets, but were able to add 50 more, Parkside Manor in Leaside is new venue
- d. Planning underway for Spring Fair

**3. Robotics Update (Mr. Le)**

- a. Robotics Club well underway. Student members from all grades have started the building process and some work is happening on the project every day including weekends.

Donations of food for club members working long hours are welcomed!

\*\*\* 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!

**4. Matters Arising**

Fundraising Appeal - tally from direct donations to come

Parent Survey results

- a. Top priorities identified as Academic Support, Teen Mental Health and Extracurricular Activities
- b. Responses also indicated school website issues; math concerns, esp. tutoring; requesting better communication...which website could address
- c. Council recommends to the school that website improvements are a priority for parents. It is understood that efforts are hampered by the fact that it is a volunteer undertaking by staff.
- d. The survey results will help form council actions: gear guest speakers to the prioritized topics, increase communication around sports scheduling & teacher/parent communication, provide indicated info via SC newsletter

## Parent Social

- e. Council has been planning a parent social event. It has been decided to host an event prior to the May18/19 Spring music concerts. Food and drinks will be available before. Anyone wishing to get involved is welcome. Contact Matilda.

## 5. Principal's Report (Ms. Tsingos)

- a. Kenn is off until the end of the month for back surgery. Valerie Nelson is filling in.
- b. Student run Breakfast Club offers breakfast snacks to 100+ students daily. Would like to increase and asking for donations (\$20 + gets receipt). Letter to go out with Feb. report cards.
- c. Report cards (Feb. 10) will include marks, but no comments or learning skills update, per current labour situation. Parent/Teacher interviews (Feb. 17) may be affected again.
- d. Course Fair next week, as well as assembly helping students decide which courses to choose for next year.
- e. Resiliency Workshop coming for students. It will be run by school psychologist Afroze Anjum at lunch time for 10-12 weeks beginning in Feb. Info session on Feb. 2. Contact Rebekah if you'd like your child recommended to the program.

## 6. Teacher's Report

- a. Dave discussed some of the affects of the continuing labour situation. Report cards may again be affected.
- b. Student course selections are due Feb. 26. All classes will be visited by Guidance to help students with the process. Parents are encouraged to use myBlueprint with their child. Classes for next year are based on the courses selected now.

## 7. Ward 15 update – deferred

## 8. Chair's Report – deferred

## 9. School Improvement Plan – deferred to March

**Meeting adjourned**

Presentation: "Course Selection & Future Planning" by Dave Robb, Riverdale Guidance