

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute  
School Council Minutes  
May 21, 2015**

**Present:** Rebekah Tsingos (Vice-Principal), Nicole Herbert (Chair), Susan Farrow (Secretary), Kim McClory, Mirka Macalik, Siobhan Keogh, Matilda Kissi, Laura Fitzsimons, Karen Wiseman, Sharon Wood, Flor Aviles-Wood (Staff rep)

**Regrets:** Kenn Harvey (Principal)

**1. Welcome** - Nicole welcomed everyone. Thanks to Rebekah for stepping in at the last minute.

**2. Student Council Update**

- The outgoing President Christopher Choquette introduced the 2015/2016 Student Council. In attendance were Kayli Chen (President), Lily Ly (Vice-President), Michael Dranitsoris (VPX), Wendy Lam (Secretary), Jason Zhen (Social Convener), Bryson Sullivan-Farrell (Social Convener), Marian Gihowis (Treasurer), April Koutsogiannopoulos (Junior Rep).
- Nelia Wong provided a summary of the past and upcoming events.
  - a. Last month the Music trip went to Boston and the Business Club traveled to New York.
  - b. Wednesday and Thursday of last week was the Spring Concert.
  - c. Music Banquet was held last night (Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>).
  - d. BAA and GAA are selling tickets for the upcoming Athletic Banquet to be held on June 5. Tickets are \$30 for athletes and \$35 for non-athletes. Next year, these 2 groups will merge to become the RAA.
  - e. Prom is on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Matters Arising**

- School Climate Survey – Student opt out form was sent home May 12th. Every TDSB student in grades 7 through 12 completes the survey. Results will be available immediately to the school. Unfortunately, the 10 extra questions the Mental Health Committee was hoping to include will not be possible, due to confidentiality rules. However, Rebekah is working with the Research Dept. of the TDSB towards a proper mental health survey that would be conducted board wide, as part of the TDSB Mental Health Strategy.
- Dress Code – No update available. However, Rebekah confirmed that the feedback from the School Council was considered. The agenda front pages draft is now under consultation with staff. The final draft will be sent to the School Council as an FYI prior to publication.
- Mental Health Week – Went well.

#### **4. Principal's Report**

- School Budget Forecast: Unfortunately, due to Kenn's absence no update was available.
- Sub-committee Updates: No updates at this time.

**5. Teacher's Report** – Ms. Aviles-Woods was unable to stay for the meeting beyond the Student Council updates, so no items to report.

**6. Ward 15 Update** - Nicole advised that the TDSB Long Term Program Accommodation Strategy was approved at board. Also, TDSB will be establishing an Independent Office of the Integrity Commissioner. Heather Johnson, TDSB Mental Health Lead, presented on the board's Mental Health Strategy. Minutes for Ward 15 meetings will be available soon, when the Trustee website is operational.

**Chair's Report** – Nicole passed around information for the upcoming TDSB STEM Parent Conference June 6, at Richview CI. To register, go to: <http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/stem-parent-conference-toronto-tickets-16398397047>

#### **7. Goals Evaluation and Planning for Next Year**

- Goal Review – Nicole reviewed our success/achievements of the past year against our goals. Amongst others they included; input on SIP including the school sub-committees work, culminating/exam information being added to the school website, providing Academic Support and Mental Health information with our parent newsletter and through hosting guest presenters.
- Meeting Dates for next year: It was agreed that School Council would be scheduled every third Wednesday evening during the 1<sup>st</sup> term and every third Thursday evening during the 2<sup>nd</sup> term. This will hopefully provide options for more staff and parent availability.
- SIP Input Schedule – School Council has asked of the administration that we be allowed to provide feedback earlier in the process.

**8. New Business** – None

Council adjourned.

Meeting was followed by a very informative session on “Helping Your Teen do Well in School ... and in Life”, presented by Lydia Fong, Toronto Public Health.