

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute**  
**School Council Minutes**  
**November 20, 2014**

**Present:** Kenn Harvey (Principal), Mirka Macalik, (Secretary), Nicole Herbert (Chair), Sharon Wood, Mary Anne Lemm (Past Chair), Harumi Yamamoto, Matilda Kissi (Vice-Chair), Kim McClory, Catherine Limbertie (Teacher Rep), Siobhan Keogh, Claudia Filici-McMullan, Ann McKechnie, Nelia Wong (Student Council VPX), Raihana Ingar, April Moon, Sirje Lautens, Karen Wiseman, Carol Baum

**Regrets:** Susan Farrow, Derby Crewe

**1. Welcome** – Nicole welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

**2. Matters Arising**

- CASL - Nicole read through a preliminary draft of a letter to the Director of the TDSB on behalf of RCI SC, concerning CASL compliance and the inherent conflicts with the goals of schools and School councils to connect with parents. Nicole will email the draft to collect any other input.

**3. Student Council Update**

- Student Council organized events included a very popular Haunted House for Halloween; a “shoebox donation” initiative; and is working on a semi-formal for Jan 23. They are also holding a door decorating contest (Dec-a-door) to kick off the holiday season.
- In sports, RBBA finals were this week and curling will begin shortly, in High Park, though efforts are being made to book a local rink.
- Super Council is holding discussions on severe weather policy in light of incidents where school closures created safety concerns
- Super Council is also advocating for a participatory budgeting initiative to improve student involvement and engagement
- Student and parent consultation on new sex ed initiative has been discussed in the media , but roll-out appears limited.

**4. Principal’s Report**

- iContact email subscription service has been budgeted at \$400 annually and the current renewal in December has been paid. Funded by Ministry of Education SC allocation money.
- Library - a Learning Commons, active environment with collaborative work space and a collection of books recently culled to more accurately serve the needs of students and faculty, making room for new areas like the laptop bar and Build-it station.
- Four students from Japan currently on exchange at RCI, local students heading to Japan in the new year. Possibility that next year there will be more students participating.

- 6 teachers from Kazakhstan will be visiting RCI the week of Nov 24 as part of their country's efforts to revamp their education system
- Nov. 25 Aboriginal Feast

### **School Improvement Plan**

- Kenn passed out the current SIP, a working document. Input encouraged. RCI focus this year on issues of Community/Culture/Caring pathway, tying into initiatives of student and staff health and mental wellbeing. We will discuss the SIP further at our next meeting. Nicole will email the document.
- #1 priority: No one is alone.
- MHL (Mental Health League) is planning an Anti-Stigma campaign

### **5. Ward15 update**

- PIAC needs 2 parent reps from ward 15. Meetings held monthly if anyone interested in applying, see Nicole for contacts with current PIAC parents

### **6. By-Law review**

- Council is prohibited from defining succession planning due to annual election requirement. Instead of the 3-tiered model passed at our last meeting, we will create Past Chair position for continuity and utilize Vice-chair role as position of intent to train for Chair position in the future.
- New by-law draft includes these items, plus several new sections on Sub-committees and the by-law updating process.
- To create the transition planning that we desire, we are creating an Operating Procedures document as a means to define roles in more detail, record traditions and schedules. This will be a more flexible document where we can update our goals/initiatives. Anyone interested in contributing to development please contact Nicole.

### **7. New Business**

Catherine gave a brief rundown of some of the staff work going on through PLC.

Guest Presentation by Rod Cohen of Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Services on drug issues in our community and parents concerns /questions

Next meeting: January 22, 2015

### Addendum:

#### **Parent Survey**

- Our annual electronic parent survey will go out this month. As per our last meeting, Rebekah has obtained survey translations in Chinese and Vietnamese. To assist parents in completing the paper survey in these languages, we need students with corresponding language skills to man tables on Parent Teacher interview day, Nov. 26. Parent volunteers also required. See Nicole with your availability.