

**Riverdale Collegiate Institute**  
**School Council Minutes**  
November 21, 2013

**Present:** Kenn Harvey (Principal), Nicole Herbert (Chair), Susan Farrow (Secretary), Saddeiq Holder, Kim McClory, Derby Crewe, Matilda Kissi, Carol Baum, Lisa Xiong (Student Council VPX), Harumi Yamamoto, Laura Fitzsimmons, Mirka Macalik, James Chow (Community Rep), Jennifer Zhao, Lakshimi Kygo, Sharon Wood, Martha McGnarty

**Regrets:** April Moon, John Scully

**1. Welcome**

Nicole welcomed everyone and the group introduced themselves.

**2. Student Council Update**

a. Recent Events:

- Halloween Celebrations included costume contest, video dance performances and fear factor activities.
- Spirit Day – activities included pep rally.
- Fundraising for the victims of the Philippines disaster.

b. Upcoming Events:

- Spirit Day being planned for the last week of school.
- Semi-formal preparations. Tentative date is January 24<sup>th</sup> at Ella's Banquet Hall.

**3. Matters Arising**

- a. School Statement of Needs – document has been finalized and submitted.
- b. Parent Survey – Finalized but not yet distributed. The hope is to have it out soon, results by end of December.
- c. Extra-curricular activities – A letter was submitted to the sports convenors, expressing parental concern regarding the disruptive affect of extra-curricular activities that were taking part during class hours. Kenn also advised that he sent the letter to the TDSAA Principal's representative. The letter has been acknowledged by George Kourtis, Program Coordinator, who has forwarded it to the District Executive as well as the south executive. He will be forwarding a collaborative response to us. Thanks to Shelagh for drafting the letter.

**4. Principal's Report**

- a. Kenn shared with the group some of the events that took place during the recent trip to Japan. He commented on how well the students represented Riverdale. The Japanese students will be in Canada from Feb. 7th through 16th with their day at Riverdale scheduled for Feb.13th.
- b. Kenn walked the group through the School Improvement Plan (SIP), noting the direction or theme has changed from "Vision of Hope" to "Years of Action". The four categories of Literacy, Numeracy, Pathways, and Community Care/Culture

are unchanged from last year. Objectives have been identified in all four categories. Go to <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/YearsofAction.aspx>  
Copies of the SIP are available upon request.

## **5. Chair's Report**

- a. Annual Report was published in the last monthly newsletter.
- b. Nicole passed around info on upcoming parent workshops

## **6. Ward 15 Update**

Lakshmi reported on the topics at the last Ward 15 meeting. They included:

- School Improvement Plans
- Artificial turf in school yards
- Roof-top garden at Eastdale School
- School roof repairs
- Traffic issues around schools – Riverdale has an issue with jay-walking across Jones to Yummy House. An awareness campaign was suggested by council.

Minutes are available on the Ward 15 website: <http://www.cathydandy.ca/>

## **7. Planning for the Year**

Nicole presented 5 key areas of interest, as discussed briefly last month, and asked the group to vote for their top 2. Results will be shared at the next meeting. Those areas garnering the most votes will be combined with our Parent Survey results to prioritize council's items of focus for the coming year.

## **8. By-law Review**

Due to lack of time, this item postponed to next meeting.

Council adjourned.

Next meeting: January 23, 2014

A very excellent and informative presentation by Sharon Wood, from Kids Help Phone, followed the meeting. Go to [www.KidsHelpPhone.ca](http://www.KidsHelpPhone.ca)